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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Man dies in Castro fire

by Dennis Conkin

A 33-year-old man died in a 2 a.m. blaze on Sunday, August 24 at 3547 20th Street in the Castro, but his identity has not been released pending official identification through his dental records.

The resident of the flat was burned beyond recognition in the fire that drew five fire engines and trucks and 30 firefighters to the scene, according to San Francisco Administrative Coroner Herb Hawley.

According to the narrative of the Medical Examiner Investigator's report, one of the victim's flatmates was awakened by another roommate who heard "a commotion" in the victim's room, and the subject gasping.

As the woman went to the victim's door and began pounding on it, she noticed black smoke coming from the top of the door. Her male roommate kicked at the door just as the smoke alarm began going off. As it broke open, he noticed flames and thick smoke but could not see the victim. He found the building's fire extinguishers and used them, but was unable to extinguish the blaze.

After firefighters arrived and put out the fire, the victim was found in the charred room, according to the report filed by investigators Clarence W. Toliver and Joel Salmonsen.

"The subject was found without clothing, supine on the floor amidst the charred wet wood, building, and insulation materials. The subject's remains showed evidence of extreme thermal injury," their report states.

The victim's mother was able to provide the Medical Examiner's Department with the name of her son's dentist, who provided the patient's dental X-rays for a comparison with X-rays taken during the autopsy exam-

ination of the corpse.

Medical Examiner Boyd Stephens, MD was expected to make the legal confirmation of the victim shortly, according to Hawley.

The fire to the building owned by Horace and Gladys Diamonon of San Francisco caused an estimated \$50,000 in structural damage and \$10,000 in damages to personal property at the dwelling, according to San Francisco Fire Captain Dave Sylvestri.

While the case is officially under investigation pending the formal identification of the victim, fire department investigators believe the cause of the fire was accidental and not arson, Sylvestri said. The Diamonons purchased the two-unit building for \$350,000.

The three-story building contains 11 rooms, including five bedrooms, a spokesman for Assessor Doris Ward told the *Bay Area Reporter*. ▼



Flowers were left at the entrance of 3547 20th Street in memory of a fire victim there.

Bar owners agree to condom giveaway

Stop AIDS Project to target 60 clubs by Cynthia Laird

The containers have been ordered, negotiations are almost completed with a company that makes a popular brand of latex condoms, and with just four weeks until the Folsom Street Fair, staff at the Stop AIDS Project (SAP) are confident that the rubbers will be out of the boxes and into containers at about 60 city bars by mid-September. Initial responses from about 20 bar owners contacted by SAP have been overwhelmingly in favor of condoms in their establishments year-round. Customers will be able to take the free rubbers, with the goal being to

increase safer sex practices among gay and bisexual men who frequent the club scene.

"We are trying to reach clubs with a diverse clientele, and there's an extra effort to reach young men and men of color," SAP's Steven Gibson told the *B.A.R.* "Most places have been a very enthusiastic 'yes.' They want to participate."

Gibson has become an expert about rubbers and the most effective way to get them into the bars and, more importantly, effectively displaying the containers so that club patrons take them. Once the condoms are in

the hands of the men, it is hoped that they use them when they have sex.

SAP's condom distribution program will get condoms into 60 bars and clubs throughout the city during the next 12 months.

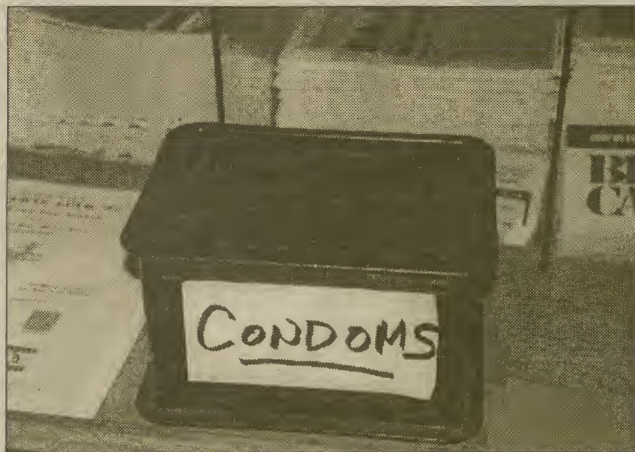
It's been almost a year since condoms in the bars became an issue; the lack of latex at last year's Folsom Street Fair led to editorials in the *Bay Area Reporter* calling for a widespread condom distribution program. Last October, Supervisor Leslie Katz called for such a program and was promptly joined by fellow board members Tom Ammann and

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Club kid



Rev. Jesse Jackson visited the Cannabis Cultivators Club Aug. 26 to drum up support for today's march against Prop. 209 across the Golden Gate Bridge. He addressed the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club while at the CCC.



Just one of the many empty condom containers found at gay bars all over town.

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A different drum



San Francisco Taiko Dojo, a Japanese drumming group, provided stellar entertainment at the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention's fourth annual founders' awards dinner, "Our Future, One Vision," Aug. 21 at the ANA Hotel. Noted philanthropist James C. Hormel won the Lifetime Achievement Award. Anguksuar (Richard LaFortune), Dean M. Goishi, R. Christoph Sandoval, and Sean Sasser took home the Community Leadership Awards. Wells Fargo Foundation was the recipient of the Corporate/Foundation Leadership Award. Alfredo Gonzalez, Joyce Grantham, the PLUS seminar volunteers, and Martial R. York were named in the Volunteer Awards category.

Post Pride bashing case heads to court

by Dennis Conkin

Four Fairfield, California men are scheduled to appear for a Wednesday, September 3 preliminary hearing in San Francisco Municipal Court, charged with felony assault and robbery in connection with a Pride Day crime spree that included a Mission Street gaybashing. If convicted of the charges, the men face state prison terms.

Jabari Jones, Darnell McLaren, and Curtiss McCain, all 20, and Henry Bryant, 19, were initially held on \$100,000 bail each after their apprehension. Bryant and Jones were able to make bail after Judge William Cahill later ordered it reduced to \$75,000.

McLaren and McCain remain in custody on the charges of robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, and gaybashing, according to Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Norvella Brooks.

Community United Against Violence Hate Crimes Coordina-

tor Jennifer Radowski expressed concern that Bryant and McCain are out on bail.

"That makes it pretty frightening for the victims attending the pretrial hearing — when they can go in with you and out with you. They aren't going to be in a bright orange uniform which sets them apart. It adds an extra level of tension to the process.

"The faster the process, the sooner justice can be done and people who are dangerous can be put behind bars," she said.

The gaybashing took place the evening after the Pride Parade, as two men and three women were walking near Third and Mission streets.

The defendants allegedly drove by in their car taunting the victims with anti-gay epithets, and then parked the car. The four men got out of the car and began running at the victims. One of the assailants allegedly swung a bat at the head of one of the women and at one of the men.

Jones allegedly grabbed one of the women's arms and made a

sexually provocative slur.

The incident was "totally unprovoked," according to Assistant District Attorney Maria Bee, who told the *Bay Area Reporter* the prosecution believes the anti-gay attack may have been premeditated because the men traveled to San Francisco on Pride Day.

The group later attacked an older Asian man, hit him twice with the baseball bat, and robbed him. Then, as they tried to get away, they crashed into a car on Grant Street.

The case became politicized when Deputy Public Defender Paul DeMeester said in a local newspaper that the men were being prosecuted because openly gay managing Assistant District Attorney Charles Haines was a candidate for judge.

Public Defender Jeff Brown quickly repudiated DeMeester's comments and said that he believed Haines was a fair and highly skilled attorney — and then publicly announced he was supporting Haines's candidacy for judge. ▼

BOSF invites nonprofits to share in 1998 fundraiser proceeds

by Cynthia Laird

The Bears of San Francisco (BOSF) are asking nonprofit groups to apply to be beneficiaries of the 1998 International Bear Rendezvous. Interested organizations are being encouraged to request an application by this Friday, August 29; the deadline to submit them is Saturday, September 20.

Next year, during the weekend of February 13-16, hundreds of bears, those husky, hirsute men and their admirers, will once again come out of hibernation and enjoy several days of fun and

fundraising. This year's event drew over 700 participants, who packed a local hotel and had several sold-out events.

Formed in 1994, BOSF is a social club whose members have a commitment to making charitable contributions. Based in San Francisco, the club currently has over 200 members in more than a dozen states and countries. In its first three years, BOSF has contributed over \$65,000 to local, state, and national charitable groups.

Beneficiaries of past bear rendezvous events include the AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP), Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center

(TARC), the Stop AIDS Project, New Leaf, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, and Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Each of the agencies received donations of several thousand dollars each. BOSF will once again select one national and two Bay Area organizations to share in the proceeds of the 1998 event. ▼

Interested organizations can request an application by writing to BOSF at 2215-R Market Street #266, San Francisco CA 94114, or by e-mail to info@bosf.org.

Former AEF officer murdered in Palm Springs

by Dennis Conkin

Felton Alex Brashier, 50, a one-time member of the San Francisco AIDS Emergency Fund board of directors, was found beaten and strangled in his Palm Springs, CA residence on Sunday, August 24.

Peter Watson Meraz of Palm Springs, 26, has been charged with suspicion of murder in the case and remains held without bail at the Palm Springs City Jail.

Meraz was on felony parole at

the time of the murder, according to the *Desert Sun*, a Palm Springs newspaper.

Once well-known in the local gay community, Brashier relocated to the resort area six years ago, according to former AEF board president Rick Salinas.

Meraz has claimed that the strangulation death was accidental and occurred during sadomasochistic sex with the victim, according to Palm Spring news reports.

According to news accounts, Brashier's body was found by his roommate - who had returned

home at about 5 a.m. to find a man leaving the apartment.

The man asked Brashier's roommate for a ride home - and when the roommate returned to the apartment, he found Brashier's body.

A police officer recognized the suspect as Meraz based on the roommate's description, and arrested him without incident at his apartment.

Although police were not available for comment on the case, Brashier met Meraz for the first time the evening of his death. ▼

Grand opening



A Maltr: Residential Care for People Living With AIDS patient cuts the ribbon at the Aug. 20 dedication ceremony for that organization's new home at 401 Duboce Avenue. The 15-bed facility offers hospice care as well as a broad range of residential HIV care for those in greatest need. For more information on the group and its services, call 415/863-8508.

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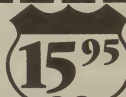
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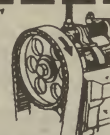
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New digs



Project Open Hand Lead Production Manager Annemarie Parrish poses in that organization's new kitchen at 730 Polk Street. The group recently moved from their old 17th Street address into this much larger space, which will also accommodate POH's grocery center later in the fall. Services at the new location began Monday, August 25. Call 415/447-2300 for more information.

Mother Lode sues landlords for \$10M

by Dennis Conkin

The owner of the Mother Lode Bar at the corner of Post and Larkin streets filed a \$10 million lawsuit on Friday, August 22, 1997 against the owner of the property.

Mark Gilpin, who shares ownership of the bar with the estate of his lover, the late Joseph Jurkin, charges that trustees of the Chong Family Trust, which owns the 1002 Post Street building, have engaged in illegal anti-AIDS, anti-gay, and anti-transgender discrimination against him, his associates, and the bar's workers and customers.

He said there have been "numerous" incidents of discrimination over the years — including one member of the Chong family who works as a maintenance worker, who has called him a "stupid fag" on several occasions.

He also alleges that the Chong trustees, including Lynda Chong, have illegally diverted water from the bar's plumbing for their own use and benefit. A 25-unit apartment building is adjacent to the site.

Gilpin said in the suit that the Mother Lode water bills were four times higher than usual — even though the amount of water used in the bar has not changed — and he was forced to hire a plumber to prove the diversion.

"My water bill shot from approximately \$600 every two months to \$2,400. There was just one little tiny leak in a toilet that

we fixed," Gulping said. "We called in a licensed plumber who found a diversion from my water line to their basement."

Gilpin is currently fighting an eviction lawsuit filed against him by the Chongs.

'Safe, comfortable...'

"The Mother Lode is the only bar in San Francisco with a large transgender clientele," Gilpin's attorney James Coy Driscoll said in the Superior Court lawsuit. "Its customers value it highly as a place where they can feel safe, comfortable, and accepted for who they are, without being subjected to the scorn and condemnation that they have encountered in so many places. The high degree of customer loyalty has resulted in substantial goodwill value for the Mother Lode."

Gilpin told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he had "ongoing problems" with trustees of the estate since he acquired the site in 1989. "We're still fighting a retaliatory eviction. We've had no lease for three years," he says.

He said an incident involving a broken sewer pipe that culminated with a disaster in his storage basement led to the eviction.

"I had between six and eight inches of shit floating in my basement. They refused to fix it. I had between eight and ten thousand [dollars] worth of damages to liquor and beer," he said.

After demanding the property owners pay to fix the problem, Gilpin said he was served with an eviction notice.

'Hurtful, regrettable'

An attorney representing the Chong Family Trust told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the issue was a commercial landlord/tenant dispute and that the eviction had nothing to do with issues of discrimination.

"I haven't seen the lawsuit," said attorney Guy Wilson of Worthington and Worthington.

But he called the allegations of discrimination "far-fetched" and "not logical," and said the legal issues in the case are cut-and-dried.

"To accuse them of this is hurtful," Wilson said. "It's very regrettable."

Wilson said the eviction was done for business reasons — and

that while the Mother Lode may be a good business for Gilpin, the business relationship with the property owner hasn't been good. He also said Gilpin owned the trust an estimated \$35,000 in back rent.

"They've never paid off the old judgment," he said.

Gilpin responded, "The only back rent that has not been paid has not been accepted."

"That money — per court order — is being paid to the court. We tried to pay the rent. The father accepted the rent and kept it for over a week and then returned it," He also said the 1991 judgment was against his late lover — and that the estate would pay the bill at the conclusion of probate.

Although Driscoll said that the legal issues involved in the eviction are "too complex" to be discussed easily in a television "soundbite" or in the space available in a newspaper article, he said the facts of the case will be borne out a trial.

'Those people'

Driscoll also admitted that a separate complaint has been filed with the Human Rights Commission by a prospective tenant and others.

The complaint was filed by Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center worker Stephanie Eng, after Eng Lynda Chong allegedly referred to "those people," meaning the transgendered individuals and others who frequent the Mother Lode and the Larkin-Post neighborhood in the late night and early morning hours.

"You're not going to start handing out needles, bleach, and condoms to 'those people,'" Chong allegedly told Eng when she expressed an interest in renting a small site next to the bar.

Eng had grants from the federal Centers of Disease Control to operate the proposed model AIDS prevention outreach station.

Eng said her case had been forwarded by the HRC to the San Francisco District Attorney for prosecution evaluation.

Gilpin said that he had also filed with the HRC over the issue.

The Chong Family Trust attorney handling the HRC complaints was not available for comment at B.A.R. press time. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

USF settles AIDS discrimination suit with Bellefountaine

by Dennis Conkin

A settlement has been reached in a major federal AIDS discrimination lawsuit filed against the University of San Francisco by former employee — and controversial AIDS activist — Michael Bellefountaine.

"There are confidentiality agreements in the settlement, but I can say with a smile on my face that a settlement has been reached," Bellefountaine's attorney Leslie Katz confirmed on Monday, August 25. "I wish I could talk about the settlement, but all I can say is that all parties are pleased with the results."

Bellefountaine is a key member of ACT UP/San Francisco, which is opposed to animal testing and critical of groups and AIDS service providers that have accepted contributions from pharmaceutical companies mak-

ing HIV drugs or which have public policies supporting AIDS drug testing on animals. The group promotes the use of dinitrochlorobenzene (DNCEB) as an AIDS treatment and opposes the use of AZT and protease inhibitor drugs as toxic.

The group had been widely criticized by other AIDS activists for its controversial antics, including an infamous incident when two members of the group dumped 25 pounds of used cat litter on San Francisco AIDS Foundation Executive Director Pat Christen at a public forum last year.

Bellefountaine's lawsuit was filed in US District Court last January, alleging that he was terminated as a secretary in USF's annual giving campaign because of his HIV status, that confidentiality regarding his HIV status was violated, and that he was continuously subjected to discriminatory

comments about his sexual orientation by the department's co-director.

Bellefountaine alleges that he was diagnosed with HIV infection in December 1994, but when he told his USF supervisor about his condition his boss ignored his request for confidentiality, and told other USF workers — including the director of his department.

Shortly afterwards, the lawsuit alleges that Kathi McNamara, the director of the USF department, "in front of other USF personnel, told plaintiff that she did not want him to come near her, for fear that her unborn child might become infected with plaintiff's HIV."

In a related incident, a top USF executive told Bellefountaine in a conversation that he had little sympathy for people with HIV and that they were "either stupid or wanted to die," according to the lawsuit.

Bellefountaine filed union

grievances over the issue, but later discovered that the cash settlement over the issues with USF was less than agreed upon, the lawsuit alleges.

Katz told the *Bay Area Reporter* that while Bellefountaine's litigation was settled, employment discrimination against people with HIV and AIDS, as well as sexual orientation bias against lesbians and gay, remain issues for many local workers.

"Based on the volume of complaints that I receive in my practice, it's definitely a serious problem in San Francisco," Katz said.

According to Katz, although many agencies and firms have legally required anti-discrimination policies in their personnel manuals, there is a lack of training and understanding among executives, supervisors, and line staff about such laws — and how to make the workplace free of such abuse.



Michael Bellefountaine

Bellefountaine was terminated from his position in June 1995. His lawsuit sought more than \$25,000 in damages. ▼

Activists, ranchers can be friends: Crypto agreement reached

by I.A. Kisselman

AIDS activists, cattle ranchers, and city officials reached an agreement Thursday, August 21 that will allow cattle to continue grazing on city-owned watershed lands in the East Bay and protect drinking water from cryptosporidium, an organism that can be harmful and even fatal to people who have compromised immune systems. Members of ACT UP/Golden Gate were among the negotiators in meetings that have been held over the past several months.

Cryptosporidium, a single-cell oocyst, or shelled parasite, can be transmitted through contact with animals or other humans, or through contaminated community water resources. It causes diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea, and vomiting; in some instances it becomes fatal, particularly to those living with AIDS.

The concern over cattle grazing on watershed lands was that the water-borne pathogen is sometimes present in the feces of cattle and other animals. The PUC had considered a ban on grazing earlier this year; that was strongly opposed by ranchers, who said such a ban would cause more harm than good. The PUC supports cattle grazing on the lands because it helps reduce fire danger and saves millions of dollars in fire abatement costs.

Under the agreement reached last week, calves will be banned from areas near water because they are the primary source of cryptosporidium. ▼

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OPEN FORUM

A letter from the editor

by Mike Salinas

This column is usually written in the "editorial we," or third person plural, but this week I'd like to forego that style and write it from myself, for a couple of reasons.

First, because I celebrated my fifth anniversary as news editor of the Bay Area Reporter Sunday, August 24, and I'd like to say thanks to everyone involved for making my first five years here such a great experience. It's been an amazing half-decade in the history of gay politics, and nobody could ask for a better vantage point than here at the B.A.R.

My first issue had the 1992 Republican Convention hatefest on the cover; since then I've watched as the far right got further inside the corridors of power, but recently (it seems) those evil forces have started to stumble up the steps. Nobody I know is crazy enough to believe the left wing has gained any real ground lately, but at least some of us can take comfort in the debacles that keep humiliating the right. Although the Don't Ask Don't Tell nightmare continues to haunt gay servicemembers (I still don't understand why the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force thought it didn't need an executive director in place during the first months of Clinton's first term, to nip that sort of crap in the bud), the community has won some decisive battles elsewhere: Amendment 2, for all its cost in dollars, time, and energy, did get the Supreme Court to acknowledge that gays and lesbians are part of the American fabric and deserve to be treated, well, no worse than anyone else.

As much as I enjoy watching the forward motion politically, I feel even more fortunate to have seen the advances in HIV treatments that seemed beyond reach only a couple of years ago. It reminds me of one of my favorite theatre lines, from the fairy tale hodgepodge *Into the Woods*: "Good fortune, like bad, can befall when least expected." That thought is rejuvenating when the going gets tough.

Unfortunately, the going is getting tough in one area where too few people take the danger seriously: crystal meth use in the gay community. It's a subject I've

railed about as an editor because of how it affects the community I love, but now I'm railing because of its consequences for my family.

For those who don't know it, my father is the former AIDS Emergency Fund President Rick Salinas. As openly gay father and son, we have had many similar experiences, one of which I hoped we would never share — both of us have picked up the telephone to learn our lovers were found murdered. For me, it happened eight years ago in New York. For my father, it happened last week-end.

As Dennis Conkin reports on page three of this issue, police are investigating the murder of my father's partner, Alex Brasher, as "terminal sex," an S&M scene gone out of control. Those of us in the family don't buy it. Knowing Alex's longtime fascination for crystal meth, and based on personal information divulged by his friends, we believe the killing was drug-related.

When my lover in New York was murdered, the culprit was eventually discovered to be a friend-of-a-friend-of-a-friend, out of his mind because of a crack addiction.

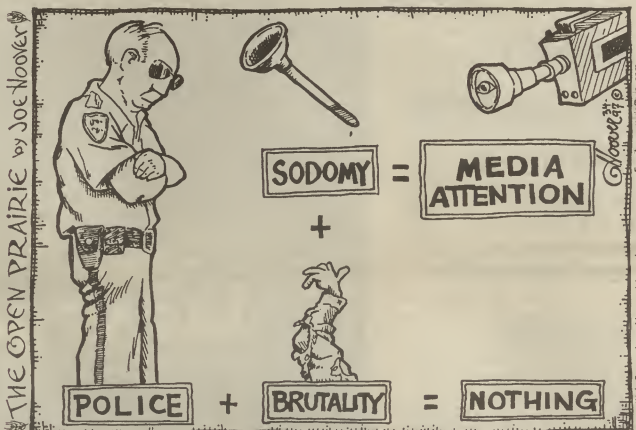
The motive was robbery. I remember thinking at the time that I could find some solace in knowing that most of the gay community refused to get caught up in that drug. I wish my father could find that solace when it comes to speed, but he can't. The crystal menace is deeply entrenched in this community and (assuming the information we've gotten about the true nature of the killing is reliable) this isn't the first gay man to lose his life over it.

Speed kills. In more ways than one. And death is a really, really hard thing for the victims' loved ones, as far too many of us in this community of widows and widowers know. Please: if you're doing speed, stop. Get help if necessary, but stop. For everyone's sake.

And if someone you love is using speed, remember that they are at extreme risk of death from many causes, of which HIV and violence are only two. Get them to stop however you can, and if they're really willing to quit, don't stint on the help and support they'll need. It's a tough job, but it is worth it. Especially compared to the alternative. Believe me. I know. I've been there. ▼



Editorial

Lover? Spouse? Partner?
No, hot buttered PILAF!

by Jennifer Dziura

Once, on National Public Radio, I heard a narrative by an amiable Midwestern lesbian who couldn't figure out how to refer to the other amiable, Midwestern lesbian with whom she lived, slept, and co-owned an amiable, Midwestern cat.

The ever-popular "partner" she found too antiseptic. "Significant other" was too yuppie and too multisyllabic. "Companion" made her sound like she was taking this woman out of the kennel, walking her, and putting her back. When saying "lover," the admission made her blush furiously.

I, listening, was puzzled. This was my first encounter with the problem of lesbian terminology.

When I arrived at college a few years later, someone posted a suggestion on the lesbian e-mail bulletin: PILAF. As in, "Person I'm Loving and ...". Yeah, that. Although those who need euphemisms could go for "flagellating," perhaps. Maybe flaunting or flummoxing? Forbearing, forsaking? Fluoridating?

The e-mail also offered the alternatives "PIL" and "PIF," so as to provide all types of relationships with accurate (perhaps too accurate) designations.

PILAF, though? I mean, it's a side dish — rice pilaf. I kept imagining some long-grain

rice, a touch of butter, a bit of oregano, and a few well-seasoned lesbians being served as some taste treat with a bit of parsley on the side. Something to try once, perhaps, but nothing to go telling the neighbors.

So what's wrong with the word "girlfriend"? I am constantly hearing older lesbians (the seasoned type, with parsley) cry, "I am not some nineteen-fifties teenybopper, my partner/lover and I are not going to the soda fountain sporting matching saddle shoes, and we are not making out at the drive-in theatre. And I am far too butch for a poodle skirt! So do not call me anyone's girlfriend!"

Thus, "partner" seems to have become the standard alternative. Employers offer "domestic partner benefits" — not, say, "lesbian lover benefits." In fact, "partner" has become so standard that people my age refer to their lovers, PILAFs, PILs, PIFs as their "partners." The media seems intent on talking about Ben and Lawrence, the two young gay men in Lynn Johnston's comic strip "For Better or For Worse," as "partners."

But — to all the women I've seasoned in butter and oregano — if we are 18-years-old, and we've been on three dates, well, I'm sorry honey, but we are not "partners."

You're my "girlfriend." Deal with it.

You don't see barely-acquainted heterosexual teenagers referring to themselves as "husband" and "wife." As well they shouldn't. It would dilute the meaning of those terms, which imply the contract of marriage. And similarly, if every two dykes within kissing distance take to calling each other "partners" when they have no real commitment, it degrades the established, long-standing relationships of those who want their bonds to be recognized in much the same way as marriages.

There are many, many lesbian couples who have been together longer than I've been alive. A lot of those couples have less in common with me than with my parents — they're settled, they own a washer/dryer set together, they're planning their retirement. It's just, in their case, there are twice as many ovaries in the equation. Those lesbians are "partners."

However — as I informed my last buttered PILAF — "Until I've been on bended knee quoting Audre Lord and offering you jewelry, I am not your partner and I do not want to be on your health plan. We're girlfriends. If you like, we can go make out at the drive-in theatre like the frivolous young people we are." ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Conant medical disaster

All the principals in Dennis Conkin's story on the Conant medical disaster ["Arrests at Davies over record-keeping," August 14] have one thing in common: they are struggling with an irrational healthcare system that prompts otherwise mature adults sometimes to behave in confrontational and juvenile ways.

Quest came to the Conant Medical Group, bailed them out of deep debt, and attempted to include them in their network. Dr. Cafaro opted out, and Davies Hospital evicted Quest, who packed up and left.

Individual behavior is of passing interest, but the real issue - for Dr. Cafaro and her patients, Davies Hospital, Quest Medical Network, and especially, one would think, AIDS activists - is the desperate healthcare climate under managed care.

The Quest network (a nationwide corporation of HIV-treating physicians in its infancy) is a response to the disturbing fact that AIDS doctors are having trouble keeping their practices viable under the current system while still providing quality care.

Did anyone notice that UCSF just closed the AIDS clinic up on Parnassus?

To re-quote the ever-pithy Dr. Poscher, "The [Quest] medical network's goal is to create a critical standard of care for AIDS patients around the country, including access to clinical trials, and a state-of-the-art database of clinical data about patients and treatment in the era of managed care."

When the histrionics settle, Quest physicians here in San Francisco and around the country will resume the task of fighting for AIDS care. At a minimum, it is an opportunity for the concerns of doctors and patients to be heard. And now, some of the business suits are working on our side.

Until there is universal healthcare, anyone have a better idea?

Jacob Lalezari, MD
Director, Quest Clinical Research
San Francisco

Secret agent man

Re: "Gay private eye, gay former FBI agent differ on Cunanan case," July 24. Great article... as usual. Since we talked, the FBI offered me a job as a paid public consultant on the Cunanan case. I knew a lot of people in the community who knew him and weren't contacted by the FBI, in addition to having access to a photo of him in drag and a videotape of him. I was prepared to reach out locally and nationally to find him... very publicly! Later that day, they located him. However, I'm in contact with the local office and have reached out to FBI Headquarters regarding permanent liaisons to our communities nationwide. Have also offered my assistance to train new and current agents and support people in "Gay 101." They may buy it!

I've launched a nationwide campaign to gay media and national gay leaders regarding the liaison issue and increased content and communication with the FBI. I think the Bureau wants that to happen (especially after Cunanan). It also looks like the local FBI is going to establish such a liaison! Times are changing (eternal optimist that I am).

Frank Buttino
San Diego, CA

Club meds

Upon entering the Cannabis Cultivators Club on August 18, I realized I had forgotten my membership card. I asked the door security if I could see Dennis Peron, as we are acquainted, or confirm my membership at the intake desk. The goon at the door would not allow me to confirm my membership at the intake desk, nor would he allow me to speak with Dennis Peron. He was very rude and shouted, "We don't allow anyone in without their card, and you'll just have to go home and get yours!" At that moment, the head of security happened to walk by. I politely posed the same question to him. Without any provocation he began to go off on me as if I were committing a criminal act. I flipped him off and walked out. I had to return home and retrieve my card. Upon re-entering the second time, the same goon at the door had his back turned, engaged in conversation, and *did not* card a half-a-dozen people as we slipped through the front entrance.

This form of *compassionate abuse* would be expected from Dan Lungren. I would expect a "kinder, gentler" response from those who are supporting the same cause as I.

It is our right as patrons of this club to be able to confirm our membership (or revoke it for that matter) if and when we choose to do so without unwarranted harassment from their security staff. I understand their position of screening fraudulence, but who is policing these Mickey Mouse police?

John Faiello
San Francisco

Tobacco fait accompli?

An enormous hoax is being perpetrated on the public - and now is the time to stop it. Congress is about to debate the tobacco settlement brokered by the states' Attorneys-General. If the specifics are confusing, all one has to consider is that the tobacco industry wants this. Sure, \$360 billion might be a lot of money for you and me, but it's pocket change for the industry. Consider this: unbelievably, the current settlement is tax-deductible. It buys them immunity from lawsuits at a time when mounting evidence points to decades-long tobacco industry complicity to deceive the public about the dangers of smoking. It largely ties the hands of the FDA in regulating the industry at a time when the FDA is finally poised to do just that. It actually rolls back protection against secondhand smoke, particularly in California, and leaves the door wide open for exploiting foreign markets where they'll recoup their little investment in no time while addicting and poisoning whole new populations. No hyperbole: this is a disaster.

I urge all concerned members of the community to express your opinions to Senators Boxer and Feinstein and to the President. A strong outpouring could make a difference in what many are saying is a *fait accompli*. And if you want to do more, contact Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights in Berkeley at (510) 841-3032, one of the groups helping to spearhead opposition to this pact with the devil. Thank you.

Naphtali Offen
San Francisco

Leather dyke in a quandary

Since I "assimilated" into the San Francisco gay/lesbian culture, I discovered I had a tendency toward the leather culture and lifestyle, but after some grim experiences indeed, I am wondering if I may have to make a "switch" in my objectives.

An ardent reader of Mr. Marcus's column, who certainly inspires me with his coverage of leather men and women, I finally attended some of the leather dyke events and met a woman; on a lark, we decided to attend the International Ms. Leather in San Diego a few weeks ago. At the outset, it was a dream come true. Hundreds of leather dykes having a good time. The euphoria was contagious, and everyone seemed hell-bent on having fun.

At the contestant basket auction, the crowd was generous and enthusiastic. Clever items were in each gift basket and it was announced on the loudspeakers that some \$7,100 was raised! The crowd cheered with gusto, but close by, a group of women discussing the amount uttered, "Let's hope the winner gets it all." I thought nothing of the remark at the time.

The next night, the competition at the Spreckles Theatre was fine. Great theater, inspiring speeches by the contestants, great fantasies, and enthusiastic crowd. The next morning, however, at the door of the victory brunch, my sense of euphoria at the whole weekend was suddenly shattered when Mr. Marcus came to the door of the brunch site and a woman refused to let him in just to take pictures! He explains he had already had breakfast so was not trying to get a "free" meal; yet the matronly woman at the door was vehement in denying him entry. Finally she relented, albeit grudgingly. Within less than a minute, Mr. Marcus exited without taking any photos at all and seemed rather disturbed by the treatment he received by the thoughtless person at the door. I asked him if all was all right, and he was friendly enough to greet me and ask me if I was having a good time. He had to catch a plane to get back to San Francisco for his deadline, so he was in a hurry.

On the plane back to San Francisco, certain leather women near our seats went on at length about the IMSL producer Amy Marie Meeks, her rudeness, aloofness, treatment of other leather women and anything but praise. They decried the treatment Mr. Marcus got and wondered aloud what would happen to the basket auction money. Later, inquiries I made around town elicited the fact that Ms. Meeks is not at all the icon I believed her to be. Women have withdrawn their support of future IMSL competitions and are gearing toward fulfillment with a title and appreciation by competing for the American Leather Woman title instead.

With all this dismay, I am not sure if I want to be a part of this leather community. I will reserve judgment and delay my decision until everything is resolved, but in the meantime, I'm joining the voices that demand of Amy Marie Meeks, "Give her the money!" While I myself could not pay the huge sums that went toward the new IMSL's travel fund, it is obvious those who did spend the money realize the enormous expense of having the title, so they were generous. It's too bad that the winner may not get the entire amount. It's too bad, too, that so many women are disappointed, disenchanted and have lost faith in one of their major sources of pride.

Ramona Radnov
San Francisco



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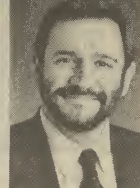
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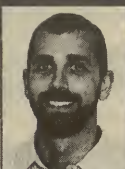
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Safe car deals

Immediately after the *Bay Area Reporter* printed our guest editorial ("Buying a Chrysler? Kick more than the tires") a while ago, in which I took Chrysler and the auto industry to task for its long traditions of anti-consumer practices (and Chrysler's anti-gay workplace policy), not wholly surprisingly, we received an intimidating and threatening phone call at CARveat Emptor. The caller, who was identified when the call was traced to his residence, changed his "cartune" when found out, and became typically contrite, wishing it be understood that he spoke as a private person and not as a representative of his employing dealership. He acknowledged being gay, although in his recorded message he homophobically said, "I read your letter in that Gay! newspaper."

This raised a question which we thought might be helpful to your lesbian/gay/straight/etc. readership. The question is whether gay consumers are any less well-advised to practice Safe Car Deal Sex when buying, leasing, or servicing from a fellow lesbian/gay/trans automobile salesperson or mechanic.

Our experience suggests that dealing with gay establishments or ones that employ gay personnel may be the best way for gay consumers to drive home a bargain. However, gay auto sales and service staff can be as dingy over car sales or service deals as non-gay personnel. So we would suggest that whether one's automobile dealer or sales staff is or not gay, that all auto consumers learn as much about the traditional ding factors in the automobile sales and service industry, before Just Buying or Servicing It again.

An average lifetime of auto ownership and operation costs now exceeds twice the cost of median-priced American homes. Yet when we get a haircut, we are more protected by minimum professional standards than when we buy or service an automobile.

One great free place to find out how car dealers, gay and straight, have dinged customers for decades is at: CARveat Emptor: Car Buyer Beware - Tricks of the Great American Car Deal, which is on the WWW at: <http://www.well.com/user/kr2>. There are also good auto consumer guidebooks available at the library or local bookstores any one of which are credited with saving consumers hundreds and thousands of dollars when buying or servicing automobiles.

At CARveat Emptor, we do not recommend automobile ownership, but for those car addicts and others who just need basic transportation to make life work, we've pulled together perhaps the most comprehensive auto consumer-friendly website in cyberspace... and the price is right. It's free. Automobile ownership is a costly mistake. However, the trick is to minimize the ding-damage when you buy, lease or service one.

Even if you do not drive or do not intend to buy another automobile for a while, CARveat Emptor offers some interesting resources and insights into how the public may repair the dings in auto sales and service deals for individual, family and village values, now, before another new or used one is needed, and before one needs one serviced again. It includes a roadmap for gov't reform, too.

It has been conservatively estimated that \$22 billion is ripped off from auto industry consumers every year due to fraud alone in America (Remember Sears and Roebuck Service Center transgressions?)... this does not include the tens of billions cleverly sucked out of the economy by the auto industry by employing hundreds of slick deal (consumer) milking tricks. These "record" profits could better be serving our many other social and environmental needs. Consider donating the money you save on your next car deal to a needy social or environmental charity. And take the tax deduction.

So do drop by when you are in the neighborhood, and let us know about your favorite car deal trick. We'll share it with other visitors to CARveat Emptor. And, oh yes, bring your rubbers. While the lube is free, remember; practice Safe Car Deal Sex, and make sure your friends, family and associates don't get dinged when they get taken for the Great American Car Deal ride.

Furthermore, as we were advised by the 'gay' auto salesperson in his recorded message, "If I were you, buddy, better watch your rear-end." Pretty good auto consumer advice, eh? (-:-)

Rand Knox
San Rafael, CA

G.A.W.K. ward

Thanks to recent press and B.A.R. listings, many people want to know about the Gay Artists and Writers Collective. We are a loosely connected social group for professional videomakers. We provide bands, DJs, comics, and security people for events. We are seeking publishers, and friendly, upbeat, affable personalities who play guitar, bass, piano and drums. Write G.A.W.K. care of Jon Sugar, 901 Stanyan St. #14, SF, CA 94117 with SASE, for meeting info, or call 731-2424.

Jon Sugar
San Francisco

Managerially challenged at the parade

Regarding the story about the parade losing \$170,000 this year due to low beverage sales [August 14]. Somehow that sounds like an excuse, not a reason. There have always been drink-hawkers all over the place during the parade. Why is this year so drastically different? I would like to suggest another factor that may have contributed to loss of revenues: bad management.

For three consecutive weeks prior to the parade, friends and I tried to locate parade tee shirts. When every store we went to in the Castro said they weren't getting them this year, we called parade headquarters. For three weeks we got message machines, left messages asking them to call any of us back, but never heard from them. Finally, at 3:30 p.m. on the Saturday the week before the parade, someone answered the phone. She said she didn't know why they decided not to let the stores sell the shirts this year, but "a bunch of people just left to go sell tee shirts, and I think they're going to set up in front of Tower Records."

Now, tee shirt sales may not be the bulk of their revenue, but we all know that tourists and anyone coming to town for the parade want a souvenir, and most of them look for tee shirts commemorating the event. I, myself, buy several each year to support the parade and send them to friends. To begin to sell tee shirts at 3:30 p.m. a week before the parade on the sidewalk in one location is pretty poor planning, by anyone's estimation.

Another story I heard alleged that the winning design for the tee shirt this year was tossed aside in favor of the design submitted by the parade organizer's girlfriend, and that was at the heart of the controversy. Whatever the case, why weren't there tee shirts made available? If only ten percent of the estimated 500,000 parade-goers bought one at twelve dollars each, and the mark-up was 100 percent, that alone would have put \$130,000 in the coffers.

Could someone set us straight on this? And also tell us if this policy of not having tee shirts available in easy-to-access locations before the weekend of the parade is going to continue?

I'm not interested in bailing out the managerially challenged.

Krandall Kraus
San Francisco

Full refund

Three cheers for the San Francisco Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Committee for their ethical business practices. After inadvertently placing some vendors in a low-traffic area they realized their mistake and made good. I received a full refund check yesterday. You better believe Quality Partners will be there again next year.

Maura Rothman
President, Quality Partners Inc.

Sins of bicyclists

This is in response to Jim Provenzano's column of July 31: Regarding Critical Mass, I think that anything that "King Willie" dislikes should be continued, and I know quite a few people who think the same. However, what I find distasteful is the self-righteous attitudes of some of the participants, which are echoed in Mr. Provenzano's column.

Mr. Provenzano paints all bicyclists as morally good and all motorists as bad. This is stereotyping, which I assume he would find wrong if used in other contexts (as in stereotyping all gays as murderers). Somehow this is justified because he feels he is right and there are no other viewpoints that should be considered.

He mentions the "sins" of drivers, but chooses to ignore some of the misbehavior of bicyclists - some examples are running red lights, darting in and out of traffic, passing on the right of autos, speeding down sidewalks, and endangering pedestrians. I know of instances where bicyclists have run stoplights and into motorists, and then wanted the motorist to pay damages. Of course, to hear Mr. Provenzano talk, bicyclists are somehow morally superior and therefore shouldn't have to obey the traffic laws, which, I understand, still apply to all vehicles using public roads.

Self-righteousness does make one feel superior, but to what expense? When one demonizes the group whose viewpoint he opposes, intelligent dialogue and creative solutions to problems become difficult if not impossible. I guess what needs to be said is that all motorists are not evil, as not all bicyclists are evil. Creating such a divide does nothing to further a solution to our traffic problems that addresses all participants.

Kenneth D. King
San Francisco

Pro-Provenzano

Loved Jim Provenzano's pre-ride column. Someone told me about it and I found it shocking: "A SF journalist who tells the truth? In 1997? Cool!"

Ken McCarthy
San Francisco

POLITICS

Conservatives march through Indiana

by Wayne Friday

It's a little over three years until the next presidential election, but Midwest Republican leaders, in an attempted show of party unity, met in Indianapolis over the past weekend and the cattle call of GOP presidential hopefuls was underway. House Speaker **Newt Gingrich**, once seen as the party's conservative leader, led off the conference speakers, which included fellow right-wingers **Dan Quayle**; **Jack Kemp**; former candidates **Lamar Alexander**, **Alan Keyes**, and **Steve Forbes**; as well as new hopefuls Sen. **Fred Thompson** of Tennessee and Governor **George Bush Jr.** of Texas.

One by one, spearheaded by Quayle, the GOP nominee wannabes took turns attacking the recent balanced budget deal that Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader **Trent Lott** forged with President **Bill Clinton**. Indeed, it was Gingrich, once considered the party's ultra-conservative darling, who had to stand idly by while fellow Republicans — though never mentioning him by name — attacked the agreement recently signed into law by the President.

This was definitely a "conservative, family values" confab. Even New Jersey's **Steve Forbes**, the "Rockefeller moderate" of the '96 campaign, has apparently seen the party light and come out swinging as an anti-gay, anti-abortion (although he once was pro-choice) Republican in apparent hopes of buying the party nod for himself the next time around.

No, there was no room for the likes of New Jersey Governor **Christine Todd Whitman** (the nation's only female governor), former Massachusetts Governor **Bill Weld**, or even **Colin Powell** at this affair. This was strictly a "come-as-your-good-old-conservative-self" or stay-the-hell-away soiree.

With all 435 House seats and 34 Senate seats up for grabs next year, the Republicans, with Clinton's approval rating hovering above 60 percent, know they are in for a fight to retain their majorities, and they obviously think that buying into the Christian Coalition-Ralph Reed-Jesse Helms school of government is the way their party should go. And that, of course, is quite all right with most of the Democratic Party leaders.

Though he must first face reelection next year (and he is currently an early favorite to win), the star of the three-day Indiana event seemed to be Governor Bush, with Senator Thompson, a former movie actor and current chair of the select Senate committee investigating campaign spending practices, a close second. Both of these men, with years of political ties to DC, tried to cast themselves as something of a "political outsider" (the GOP mustn't make the "Beltway Bob" mistake again). Bush kept his remarks to the crowd strictly on a safe "family values" theme, while

Thompson spent his 15 minutes attacking the Clinton presidency.

If anything at all came out of the GOP confab in Indianapolis last weekend, it was that the Grand Old Party is once again headed down the pothole-strewn road of "what's good for the Christian Right is good for the country," as each of the presidential hopefuls took turns trying to come off as being just a bit to the right of the previous speaker. Like it or not, the curtain is up on the presidential campaign for 2000, and to give you an idea of where the party of

Abraham Lincoln, **Dwight Eisenhower**, and **Gerald Ford** might be headed, one of the hottest bumper stickers at the extravaganza last weekend read: "Thurmond-Helms 2000 — Don't Waste 200 Years of Experience."

That slogan, as you may imagine, left a lot of big-name Democrats with smiles on their faces.

Politics and poker

Don't call **Pete Wilson** a "lame-duck governor!" Even though this Republican has only a couple of years left in his second term and Democrats now control the powerful Assembly, it was Wilson who kicked ass in the recent nasty budget process. He is still very much in control in Sacramento, and those who should know tell me that the man who came from 20 points behind to clobber Democrat **Kathleen Brown** during the last election clearly has his sights set on gearing up for the White House in 2000. George Bush Jr., watch out!

SF state Senator **John Burton** asked Attorney General **Dan Lungren** last week to investigate whether or not Governor Wilson engaged in some illegal "arm-twisting" in the aftermath of the recent budget battle, by promising to revive funds for certain districts if their legislators approved a bill the gov wanted. Don't hold your breath waiting for Lungren to act, Senator.

LA friends and colleagues of Councilman **Mike Hernandez**, arrested last week for possession of cocaine, say this could be a sad ending to the once promising political career of that city's fastest-rising Hispanic politico.

Former San Jose Mayor **Tom McEnery** about to once again run for mayor of that city? Rumors to that effect have the other hopefuls more than a bit worried.

Hey, Supervisor **Sue Bier-**



Leaner and meaner than ever: Newt Gingrich.

man (and yes, she's always been one of my favorites)! Don't let them talk you into that ridiculous Embarcadero "foot" statue. I don't know Arts Commission President **Stanlee Gatti**, but I join those who suggest the gentleman go back to what he apparently does best: arranging flowers.

South Africa's Consul **Mpendulo Kumalo**; **Mrs. Robert Cartwright**, the vice consul general from Iceland; and **Brian Cox**, Canada's consul and senior trade commissioner, will

all be honored for their support of gay and lesbian rights by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission on Thursday, Sept. 18, at a reception at the home of Dr. **John Newmeyer** (6-8 p.m., \$100; 255-8680 for information).

A reader wrote in to ask if **Jesse Jackson** has his priorities straight by holding today's "Save the Dream" march on the Golden Gate Bridge, since Marin and San Francisco were the only two counties in the state that voted against Proposition 209. Maybe this march would be a bit more effective in, say, Orange County? This particular demo seems to be simply more preaching to the ranks of the already converted.

More on **Mickey and Minnie**! The recent Southern Baptist Convention asked members to eliminate at least \$100 in spending on Disney products in the next year, following up on a June boycott resolution. Upset over Disney's gay-friendly policies, the Baptist group is appealing to 91,000 pastors and church leaders in a factsheet asking them to urge church members for their support.

In Sacramento, backers of an initiative to bar state recognition of gay marriages are ready to collect signatures to qualify for the June 1998 ballot. Proponents of the Defense of Marriage initiative paid the required \$200 for a title summary and now need 433,269 valid signatures of registered voters by January 2.

The Republicans who thought Rep. **Ellen Tauscher**'s win last year in the East Bay's 10th District was a fluke no longer think so. The congresswoman has emerged as a respected, dedicated House member, who now must be considered an early favorite for re-election.

There's definitely less pork on Capitol Hill. Newt Gingrich and Bill Clinton have each shed 25 pounds in the past few weeks, although the president was recently spotted chowing down on a large piece of pizza on Martha's Vineyard. ▼

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EAT IN
TAKE OUT

Another peak experience

by Beth Elliott

Real Estate Killed the Radio Star Dept.: So with "young country" (sounds like LA sidemen gone to Nashville for the work) kicking the butt of Willie and Merle-type country music stations, the game of radio frequency roulette has been on once again. In the local market, "urban contemporary" Wild 107 managed to grab a desirable mid-dial spot from KSAN. KSAN moved up to 107.7 and, to tears shed into the beers of Brisbane I'm sure, switched formats to ... "classic rock oldies."

Now, I've always considered "classic rock" stations good at best for third or fourth button on

the car stereo - good for trying to catch one of the decent songs among all that '70s boy rock when your main stations (like KFOG and Alice) are running commercials. So far, fortunately, the new KSAN seems to be a cut or two or three above the stereotypical "classic rock" station. I breathe a sigh of relief, because when I listened to this music on KSAN when it was new, KSAN - "The Jive 95" - still showed its "free form" rock radio roots and ruled. I can handle a shadow of its former self as long as it's a pretty good shadow.

The idea that a station I listened to as a teenager and young adult is back, playing (mostly) the same music but calling it "oldies," is more than passing strange. But

then, I didn't even manage to make it into my teens before Top 40 had its "Oldies but Goodies," much of it doo-wop and rockabilly too good not to keep playing. Before the "San Francisco Sound" became a phenomenon instead of just our local bands, you could turn on any AM radio and hear Buddy Holly or a Phil Spector girl group sandwiched between the Byrds and the Lovin' Spoonful. So I guess I've had most of my life to get used to the idea, but it's still disorienting.

It was time to get back to something timeless and centering: heading out to the countryside to watch the annual Perseids meteor shower. This year, after a string of sub-E Ticket showers thanks to moonlit nights, or clouds and moisture in the mountains, or friends running drama or being otherwise flaky, I managed to get myself away to a really cool place high enough and dry enough and dark enough and

ize the dispersal of thunderheads over Mt. Lassen, I went for reliably hot and dry Central California - specifically, Pinnacles National Monument, in the Coast Range between ever-shaky Hollister and the Mission and prison town of Soledad, a site strikingly shaped by both volcanic and tectonic activity (always sure to set off Meg Ryan deli scene activity in your columnist).

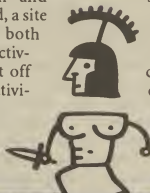
This trip was about trust: I'd never been to Pinnacles before, but found a parking, picnicking, and camping area in a natural bowl at 1,400 feet and the option of joining fellow rowdy astronomy types for hiking up to 2,700 for a less comfortable but broader view. Apparently, this little valley had been the scene of California's second most famous

and a dozen of which got me to exclaim aloud. Even in the moonlight, Cygnus the Swan flew down the Milky Way and around the pole star in 3D. Jupiter rose over the pinnacles, volcanic spires smoothed and rounded by

erosion during the 29 million years it took for this half of an old volcano to move this far north of the other half, still nestled above Los Angeles. Around one in the morning, a pack of coyotes cut loose for a minute or two... and the lack of echo placed them

as not that far away.

Oh, that California may avoid further population pressures so that it will be ever possible to walk lands like this, wild enough to hear coyotes nearby, far enough from city lights to see deeply into the galaxy and beyond.



Sapphistication

This was a fairly typical California excursion for me—turning off the freeway and onto a state highway that wound through dry grassland hills spotted with scrub oak (volcano girl catnip) on a road that narrowed to one questionable-for-RVs lane. Rather than risk having to visualize the dispersal of thunderheads over Mt. Lassen, I went for reliably dry Central California.

non-touristy enough actually to catch the show. Minivan with cushions and sleeping bag, reclining lawn chair, warm clothes, caffeine capsules (maximum caffeine, minimum bladder throughput, eh?) ... I was set to stay up for prime time (between one and three).

Talked out of passing up this year's shower by a reminder that the quarter moon would get out of the way by midnight. I lucked out on the ooh-and-ahh action. Other than that, this was a fairly typical California excursion for me - turning off the freeway and onto a state highway that wound through dry grassland hills spotted with scrub oak (volcano girl catnip) on a road that narrowed to one questionable-for-RVs lane. Rather than risk having to visual-

bandito making a stand and holding off the authorities for some period of time. The materials available at the ranger station were about hiking trails, rock climbing routes, and prairie falcon fledging sites to leave be, and none of us had the historical chops to name anyone after Joaquin Murietta (much less know whether this guy was responding to acts of force against him or was just a lowlife). Isn't that the way with history ... nobody ever remembers the second guy!

Be that as it may, I found myself cherishing this night, as well as the day after, for the strenuous hiking in a striking setting it afforded. There were a good number of meteorites, a high percentage of which left good vapor trails

Before dusk, I kicked back with a book I'd brought back from Nepal, Lama Govinda's *Foundations of Tibetan Mysticism*. Being in the best tradition of cutting to the chase - the psychology of "higher consciousness," that Tibetan strong point - it was a good antidote to the millennium madness being floated everywhere. A polar shift getting triggered by an alignment of planets in May 2000? Like the Harmonic Convergence, which was supposed to be a breakthrough good thing? It reminded me of the poster at a Mt. Shasta City hostel last year, pinpointing 1997 for "earth changes" dropping California into the sea.

"You shouldn't be superstitious - it's bad luck!" More on that next week. ▼



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UC Berkeley hosts fascinating women in SF

Business wire

Breast historian Marilyn Yalom, feminist thinker Susan Griffin, and sex expert Susie Bright are featured speakers at UC Berkeley Extension's symposium "Women's Lives: Body and Soul" next month.

The one-day symposium will be held Saturday, September 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the UC Extension Center, located at 55 Laguna Street in San Francisco. Registration has already begun.

Marilyn Yalom will draw from her best-selling book *A History of the Breast* to describe how women's breasts have come to hold such powerful symbolism in

Western culture. From sacred images of a nursing Madonna in medieval art to Freudian analysis of the seduction of breast-feeding, Yalom explains, much of that symbolism has been defined, interpreted and exploited by men.

"As women in the feminist movement of the 1960s sought to shed male-defined images of women's bodies, the male-dominated media chose to sensationalize bra-burnings to symbolize that rejection," said Yalom. "Today, media images of women with mastectomies are helping to bring breast cancer out of the closet."

Susan Griffin, author of *Women and Nature: The Roaring Inside Her* and *Pornography and Silence*, will lead a discussion on

"goddesses and whores." By comparing the lives of courtesans in the 19th century, actresses at the turn of this century, and movie stars of today, Griffin will explore how the female body is seen both as an object of depravity and a shrine of mystery and revelation.

Susie Bright - co-founder of *On Our Backs*, a magazine of erotica, and editor of *The Best American Erotica* - will explore the wide range of women's sexual desire and expression. Bright considers the role of fantasy, erotica, pornography, and sexual orientation in a discussion of sexual freedom.

The cost for the day-long symposium is \$85. Register online at www.unex.berkeley.edu:4243 or call (510) 642-4111. ▼

GAY HISTORY

22 years ago this week:

Leonard Matlovich's Bronze Star, Purple Heart ... and pink triangle

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: Sgt. Leonard Matlovich's picture appears on *Time* magazine's cover with the words, "I am a Homosexual," August 30, 1975.

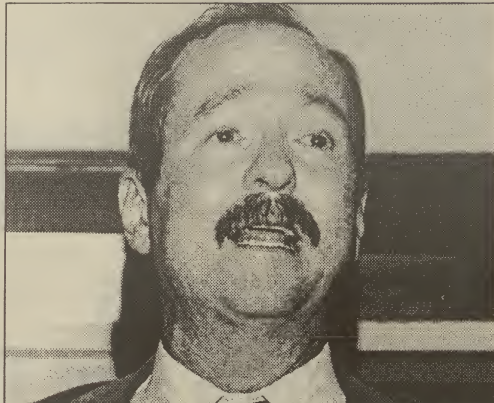
Long before Keith Meinhold, Tracy Thorne, and Zoe Dunning dominated the gays-in-the-military headlines, Sergeant Leonard Matlovich brought attention to the military's policies of discharging homosexuals, whatever their service record.

The son of a career Air Force serviceman, Matlovich joined his father's branch of the service a year out of high school, in 1963, and immediately volunteered to go to Vietnam. In the year before he was granted his request, he became involved in Republican politics, campaigning for ultraconservative presidential candidate Barry Goldwater. Despite his Catholic faith and conservative politics, Matlovich's private sexual thoughts were exclusively towards other men.

His service in Vietnam was exemplary by all accounts, winning him both a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart — but contrary to military expectations, he continued to find himself drawn to his fellow servicemen. These feelings troubled Matlovich, as they distracted from his primary motivation to serve his country with honor. Eager for a way of life that was even more hierarchical and authoritarian than the military, Matlovich was baptized into the Mormon Church in the South China Sea in 1968.

But Matlovich continued struggling with gay feelings, which became politicized after he began teaching racial sensitivity courses to servicemembers as part of the military's efforts to combat racism among the troops. At one point, he asked his students who the most discriminated-against group in America was, and when they answered "blacks" or "Jews," he wrote the word "homosexuals." Soon, Matlovich's class was debating the military's exclusion of gay and lesbian personnel, and one of the students mentioned the name of a local gay bar. Intent on doing "research," Matlovich went to it one evening, met another man, and had his first sexual experience.

Increasingly, Matlovich wanted to integrate his burgeoning homosexuality with his loyalty to the armed services. He also recognized that his medals and his all-American background made him an ideal test case in a court challenge to the ban on openly gay servicemembers. So he contacted Franklin Kameny, a longtime DC



Sergeant Leonard Matlovich in 1987, the year before his death.

gay activist who himself had successfully challenged the government's discrimination against gay employees. Kameny urged Matlovich to consider the implications of coming out on his career, but once Matlovich indicated he was sure he wanted to mount a challenge, Kameny helped Matlovich find a lawyer.

In March 1975, Matlovich delivered a letter to his superior officer in which he indicated that "my sexual preferences are homosexual as opposed to heterosexual" and urged a waiver of the military's anti-gay policies in light of his continuing abilities to perform his duties.

At first, the Office of Special Investigations didn't even believe him. Its agents demanded that Matlovich offer proof that he was actually gay and not just trying to make a political point. While the sergeant refused to "out" other gay personnel, he did write a letter in which he indicated having engaged in specific sexual acts.

'You can't ... suck cock!'

While awaiting an administrative hearing on whether Matlovich should be discharged, the sergeant faced decidedly mixed reactions from other military personnel. Several of his non-gay coworkers at Langley Air Force base, particularly those who were African-American, came to his defense, insisting his case was one of civil rights. Others were less supportive, and Matlovich even received threatening phone calls and gunfire aimed at his home. At one point, Matlovich was ordered to conduct an after-hours inspection of a barracks of young servicemen, and he was convinced he was being tested to see if he would stare at the half-naked bodies under his command. But the reaction of many servicemembers was disbelief, as expressed by the sergeant who told Matlovich,

"You can't have a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star and suck cock!"

By this time, Matlovich's case had attracted broad media attention, including the honor of being the first openly gay man to be pictured on the cover of *Time*.

At his hearing, testimony on the nature of homosexuality was offered, along with the inconsistent fashion in which the Uniform Code of Military Justice was enforced. (Adultery and wife-swapping allegations were never investigated, the defense pointed out, unlike charges of homosexuality.) But the presiding judge made it clear that the board would have to base its decision on whether Matlovich was violating current regulations, not the fairness or constitutionality of those regulations. Matlovich lost and was given a general (less-than-honorable) discharge.

Matlovich appealed, and in December 1978 the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that his discharge had been illegal — and that a lower court should determine whether he should be reinstated. Almost two years later, a judge ordered the Air Force to reinstate Matlovich, but the Air Force — desperate to keep Matlovich a civilian — offered the former sergeant a tax-free \$160,000 settlement. To the surprise of many observers and the rage of many gay activists, Matlovich took the money, citing his dim prospects of winning a government appeal to an increasingly conservative Supreme Court.

In 1988, Matlovich died of AIDS. His gravestone in Arlington National Cemetery reads, "When I was in the military, they gave me a medal for killing two men, and a discharge for loving one." ▼

David Bianco, M.A. will be teaching at *Queer 2000: Where Do We Go From Here?*, a weekend college in Los Angeles, September 19-21. For more information, contact him at AriBianco@aol.com.

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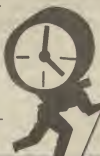
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Queen bee: Pop diva and fashion victim Elton John (left) opens up for partner David Furnish (right).

Elton John's Tantrums and Tiaras

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

This Tuesday, September 3, Cinemax's Reel Life Documentary Showcase will premier *Tantrums and Tiaras*, a documentary about musician Elton John. Earlier this month Cinemax premiered *Paul Monette: The Brink of Summer's End* (see GLAADAlert, 8/1/97). Directed by his longtime life partner, David Furnish, *Tantrums* follows John from the recording studio, on world tour, and to the Oscars. The guarded and often self-described temperamental star allows Furnish unprecedented access to his personal life and inner demons, including issues of self-esteem and past drug abuse. Throughout, viewers are reminded of the intimate and loving relationship between the two men, one that John obviously treasures.

Please check out *Tantrums and Tiaras* and then thank Cinemax for yet another intimate portrait of a complex and interesting gay man.

Contact: Sheila Nevins, c/o Cinemax, 1100 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036-6737, fax: 212.512.1000, feedback forum: <http://www.hbo.com/feedback.html>.

Anti-gay editors at their worst

In addition to the approximately 30 newspapers which considered not running the gay-inclusive storyline in the gay comic strip *For Better or For Worse* last week, on August 20 the *Augusta Chronicle* featured an anti-gay editorial on the subject. Referring to "Lawrence and his homosexual 'friend,'" the *Chronicle* writes, "It's instructive that this be the topic of community debate, especially in light of some successful efforts in recent years by primarily Christian therapists and support groups to convert homosexuals back to a healthier lifestyle."

It continues, "Why don't trendy religious leaders want to foster the scholarly search for truth, whose foundations are found in the Scriptures? ... Yes, let's talk about Lawrence. Is our editorial opposition to unhealthy same-gender sexual relationships 'an attempt to impose our values on others,' which is the usual liberal line? Our response is simply this: Someone's values are ultimately going to prevail in this ongoing cultural battle. Why not the values of our founding fathers and the Judeo-Christian tradition which made this country great?"

The final two sentences strike the heart of the difference between the work of organizations like GLAAD and the work of radical religious groups and individuals such as the editors of the *Augusta Chronicle*.

While GLAAD and many other progressive organizations and individuals see America (and the intentions of the founding fathers) as cherishing of a multiplicity of attitudes, values and beliefs, and a tolerance for all people regardless of sexual orientation or religion, the *Chronicle* editors see it as an either/or proposition: Either everyone must toe the line of a single, rigidly anti-gay fundamentalist value system, regardless of their own individual beliefs or identity, or radical religious groups feel as if they are somehow "losing" the "cultural battle." Freedom and equality are big enough for all of us, even if we do not fit the arbitrary interpretations of the Bible as set out by a radical minority of Christian Americans.

Explain to the *Augusta Chronicle* that a variety of values can co-exist in a free society — that is what our country is based upon. In addition, let your local newspapers who have denied readers the opportunity to decide for themselves know that their stand against diversity is a stand for intolerance.

Contact: John Fish, Managing

Editor, *Augusta Chronicle*, P.O. Box 1928, Augusta, GA 30903, fax: 706.722.7403, e-mail: aughchroned@aol.com.

Miami Herald adopts pro-gay stance

Coming on the heels of balanced and fair Cunan coverage (GLAADAlert 8/1/97), the *Miami Herald* continued to display a depth and appreciation for issues of sexual orientation in an August 15 editorial advocating the rights of gay people seeking to adopt.

"Denying gay people the right to be considered as adoptive parents is silly and just plain wrong," the editors say. "All that is on the table is the right to be considered as individuals, not as part of an arbitrary human category. That's all courts should extend to gay people seeking to

adopt children. That's all the law gives anyone else," they continue. "Every Floridian now has the right to petition for an adoption except for homosexual people who truthfully answer the intrusive question about their sexual orientation. Only Florida and New Hampshire have statutory bans; Florida's was passed in 1977 at the height of an emotional campaign against gay people."

Finally, the editorial states, "No one would expect the courts to grant adoptions to people, homosexual or heterosexual, who flaunt their sexual practices in front of children. What [reform] is being sought is simply the right to be considered on one's merits as a parent."

Please let the *Miami Herald* know how much such an intelligent and clear-headed editorial is appreciated.

Contact: Sandra Keyes, Managing Editor, *Miami Herald*, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132, fax: 305.527.8955, e-mail: heraldedit@aol.com.

next page ►

Gay parenting help online

by Heather Shirley

Being a parent is no easy job ... ever. Being a gay or lesbian parent presents its own unique challenges, from personal issues to legalities, to child psychology considerations, with a list of critical others that just goes on and on. Geek Grrrl has scoured cyberspace and found some specially-tailored, reliable resources for all gay and lesbian parents, or those who want to be. (If you aren't and don't, perhaps you know someone who is and does to whom you would like to pass this info along.) There are sites that cover starting your parenting journey, communicating with other gay and lesbian parents, and accessing resource sites.

If you are a gay male just thinking about becoming a parent, there are a few resources to access that will help get you started. One of the Web's incognito champions of providing guidance on the gay parenting front is "The Gay Dad." (<http://www.milepost1.com/~GayDad/index.html>) Gay Dad says this site is "for all the gay and/or bi men who are trying to be fathers." As we all know, with the conservative's pipe dream of what a family should actually be still floating around our planet, many debates ensue regarding a man's ability to be a solo parent or a parent with another man. How are other dads doing? What is the viewpoint of professional parenting organizations? What are some of the options for starting a family? Gay Dad has provided answers to these questions and more. The site is broken down into easily navigated sections including: stories, coming out, questions, professional points of view, religious points of view, support resources, and starting a family. It is one of the best places to begin your par-

enting adventures!

If you are lesbian Mom-wanna-be, there is an equally compelling resource available to you. "Lesbian Mothers Support Society" (<http://www.lesbian.org/lesbian-Moms/index.html>) has designed a very informative site regarding the beginning stages of lesbian parenting. "Some of the issues of interest to Lesbian Mothers Support Society are the rights of non-biological parents,

access to insemination for lesbians seeking to become parents, custody issues in Lesbian family break-ups, and equal treatment of Lesbian families in society." This well-organized site takes you to the heart of it all and answers your questions about lesbian baby-making, children's resources, organizations, and alternative fertilization. This is a definite stop on your road to becoming a Mommy.

One site that caters to both lesbian and gay questions is "FamilyQ." (<http://www.studio8prod.com/familyq>) Arguably the most critical area on this Web page is a section called "Starting a Family," with thorough coverage of the options for having a child and the resources available for those options. Other areas on this well-rounded site include chat, news, and access to relevant book and article titles.

Are you interested in communicating more directly with other gay and lesbian moms and dads? You may want to get feedback from parents who have already been there or who are also considering having children now. There are several support sites online that provide mailing lists or bulletin boards where you can communicate directly with gay and lesbian parents. Visit the "Gay/Lesbian Parenting Board" (<http://rainforest.parentspace.com/dialog/get/samesex.html>), where you can post questions, or browse through the other post-

ings and share in the experiences of other parents like you.

Two e-mail lists that are focused more on the gay male parent are the "Gay Dads Mailing List" (<http://www.milepost1.com/~GayDad/MailList.html>) and the "QueerDad's Mailing List" (<http://www.milepost1.com/~GayDad/queerDads.html>). These lists are designed to allow gay men to share their joys, questions and concerns with other gay men. Lesbian moms can post to a mailing list linked through "Moms-at-home" (<http://www.nyu.edu/pages/sls/parenting/Momsatm.html>). This list, although designed for at-home moms, also welcomes moms with different working situations.

Now that your journey is underway and we've hooked you up with places for very specific answers, it's time to move on to a more extensive Web gay and lesbian parenting resource. "Out At Home" (<http://www.OutAtHome.org/>) has put together a Website "dedicated to promoting acceptance of all gay and lesbian families with children through visibility, information, and network resources." This site is special in that it hosts a "family album" that includes pictures and biographies of other gay and lesbian families. Through "Out At Home" you can get the latest news, great Internet links, and information on pertinent organizations.

We all know that the make-up of the family isn't what matters, but that the family is built with love, awareness and understanding. So educate yourself and talk to other gay and lesbian parents about their experiences. Sharing experiences is the best way to learn, and there's no better place to begin than the ultimate resource, the Web. ▼

Link to the sites mentioned in today's article from Geek Grrrl's Web page at <http://www.sirius.com/~hezaa/bar>.

growth and love. For those homosexuals who are unhappy with their lives and can find effective therapy, it can be overcome." "There's no 'hate' or 'bigotry' in this statement," writes Thomas. "Just clinical, observable facts." He then quotes a study from the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), which is run by Joseph Nicolosi and Charles Socarides, both of whom have been attacked for their severe anti-gay agenda and shady research methods, as a further assertion of Thomas' "factual" basis.

Thomas chooses his "facts" based on his own anti-gay beliefs, then claims objectivity by calling the APA resolution "political." The worn-out claim that homosexuality is based in "stunted maturation" is total nonsense, as most credible psychologists and psychiatrists will attest to. No doubt those who thought the Earth was flat believed it was a "political" rouse, too, when the advancement of science led to the discovery that the Earth is round. But that doesn't mean that it was true. If Thomas and other anti-gay ideologues choose to remain ignorant

despite overwhelming scientific opinion to the contrary, it is hate, not reason, which guides them. That is what the APA warned against with their resolution.

Tell Thomas and the Los Angeles Times Syndicate that these archaic views on sexual orientation are absurd and offensive, and that before he claims to know the "facts," he should understand them in a fuller context. Additionally, if your newspaper carries Thomas, encourage them to carry a columnist less blinded by his hate.

Contact: Cal Thomas, Los Angeles Times Syndicate, 218 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, fax: 213.237.4992.

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org or by phone at (415) 861-2244. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's Toll-Free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334).

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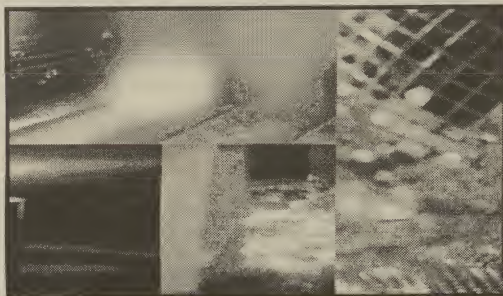
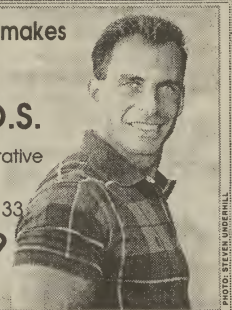
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GLAAD

◀ previous page

More of the same from Cal Thomas

In a syndicated column appearing in newspapers across the country last week, anti-gay pundit Cal Thomas attacks the American Psychological Association's (APA) recently adopted resolution asserting that so-called reparative therapy is without sound scientific evidence, that nothing is wrong with homosexuality, and that psychologists have an ethical responsibility not to "participate in or condone discriminatory practices with sexual minority clients." "But the facts (as opposed to the politics) are that people who want to change can change, because it is behavior at issue," Thomas asserts. He then quotes the widely dismissed Robert Kronenmeyer from his 1980 book, *Overcoming Homosexuality*: "Homosexuals are made, not born 'that way.' Buried under the 'gay' exterior of the homosexual is the hurt and rage that crippled his or her capacity for true maturation, for healthy

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Building a community for queer youth

LYRIC's Queer Youth Leadership Project

by Erin Burke

Since the beginning of the summer, a group of young people have been meeting every week for over 3 hours in the hopes of doing something no one else in the world is doing: training a group of young queer leaders and implementing grassroots social change. By no means is this an easy goal to accomplish. In fact, it is one which in its nature has a tendency to tear people apart.

How does one simultaneously train leaders while at the same time urging them to lead themselves?

The idea for the program originated when Rachel Timoner, the founder of the LYRIC youth talk-line, "realized that young people were looking for opportunities to develop skills, connect with their peers, and create lasting change."

"Later," Timoner told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "I translated that idea into the NGLTF Youth Leadership Institute, a national program for young queer leaders around the country. When I moved back to San Francisco, I started the Queer Youth Leadership Project (QYLP) as a local version of the national program. Queer young people deserve opportunities to be leaders in their communities and take concrete action towards creating lasting change. There are no other structures in place where young people can fully grow in that way."

Since then, the San Francisco QYLP has completed its third cycle, and it has flowered into a project which is now entirely by and for queer youth. This change occurred because of the dedication of six participants from the last cycle who saw the need for youth leadership within the project itself.

These six people, all of whom are under 25, now act as trainers

in the ten-week-long summer cycle. Their primary job is to act as resources and guidance for the fifteen participants. The trainers, all of whom have full-time jobs, developed and implemented the workshops and the retreat, spending countless volunteer hours each week outside the normal meeting times. For the first three months of the cycle, the trainers lead workshops in addressing different models of social change, as well as finding ways for queer youth to become active participants in making change.

This summer's cycle began in early June with a weekend retreat that, according to one of the trainers, was "composed of various workshops and fun activities designed to provide an opportunity to start building community and to start tackling some of the questions around who we are as queer young leaders." The project is now in the planning stages of a grassroots campaign addressing the lack of leadership opportunities for queer youth in the Bay Area.

Views towards the future of building a queer youth community are optimistic and hopeful. One trainer said about the importance of the project, "San Francisco stands as an international Mecca for queer youth, with many organizations which serve our needs. However, there are only services here, but not an outlet for queer



Rachel Timoner

youth to become leaders. We are filling that gap."

Sonja Mackenzie, one of the trainers, added, "One of the unique things about the project is that it is solely by and for queer youth, and that we are seeking ways for queer youth to become involved in working for institutional change. As young people, and as queer young people on top of that, we are alienated from the institutions and structures that often dictate how our lives are going to look. This group provides a forum for young people to identify necessary change, and enact that change. Another goal of this project is to build community where one does often not exist now. Through coming together for a series of weeks, hanging out, and working together, we have seen what an incredible community this is." ▼

For more information about the project, call LYRIC (Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center) at (415) 703-6150.

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Youths lauded for their work fighting AIDS

Business Wire

For some teenagers, the appeal of helping others is more enticing than watching TV, surfing the Internet, or playing with friends.

A dedicated group of 22 such young people from across the country have become role models for both adults and adolescents in the fight against AIDS. The National AIDS Fund tells the stories of these youths in a newly published booklet, *Youth in Action Against AIDS*, which profiles the work they have done to energize their communities around AIDS. A resource guide in the back of the booklet provides a link for others who want to volunteer.

In the quest to identify teenagers who have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to their work with AIDS organizations, the National AIDS Fund joined forces

with Metropolitan Life Foundation, which underwrote a nationwide search for 12- to 18-year-old AIDS volunteers. Together the two organizations formed the "Caring Counts" awards program; winners were chosen by an advisory committee of adults and young people. The winners were chosen not only for their efforts, but also for the personal challenges they had to overcome and for their tenacity of spirit, which just wouldn't accept defeat.

"We discovered that young people are often smarter about the AIDS epidemic than their parents and are quite pragmatic in developing strategies for teaching their peers how to protect themselves from AIDS," said B.J. Stiles, president and chief executive officer of the National AIDS Fund.

"Caring really does count with these young people, as well as with the countless others like them who are rising to the challenge of

stopping AIDS in their own communities," Stiles added.

"The efforts of these committed teenagers demonstrate the role community service can play in fighting AIDS," said Sibyl Jacobson, president and chief executive officer of Metropolitan Life Foundation. Young people can and do make a difference in their communities, and the work of the Caring Counts award winners exemplifies the best traditions of community service."

Founded in 1988, the National AIDS Fund has generated over \$50 million to support direct, community-based responses to the HIV/AIDS crisis, including support for more than 3,000 separate prevention, service and advocacy projects, in communities large and small throughout the United States. These dollars make a difference in the lives of thousands of people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS every year. ▼

Groundbreaking gay youth survey begins

by I.A. Kisselman

The online magazine *Oasis* and !OutProud!, a national coalition for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth, are teaming to survey queer and questioning youth on the Internet. The unprecedented survey will query queer kids on 150 questions, according to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

The survey includes questions about how youth define themselves, the role their sexual orien-

tation has played in both self-acceptance and acceptance from peers, and how they perceive community and spirituality, among other topics. Co-sponsors of the effort include the American Civil Liberties Union, XY magazine, and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

"The Internet and America Online have played a crucial role in helping this generation of queer youth to acknowledge and accept their sexual orientation," !OutProud! Executive Director Christopher Kryzan said. "With

this survey, we hope to provide them with a powerful voice."

With a monthly readership of over 35,000, *Oasis* editor and publisher Jeff Walsh said the magazine is "in a unique position to reach queer youth as never before."

The results and a report will be published in January 1998.

The survey can be found at the *Oasis* Web site at <http://www.oasismag.com/survey/>. ▼

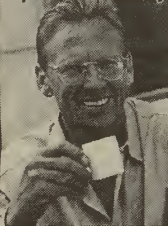
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Gay/lesbian Catholics to converge next weekend in Long Beach

by Shan Schwartz

An Oakland-based association of Catholic gay and lesbian ministries is putting the finishing touches on its 4th annual conference, entitled "Unconditional Love."

The National Coalition of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian & Gay Ministries (NACDLGM) will hold its conference next weekend, September 4-7, in Long Beach at the Sheraton Long Beach Hotel.

Attendance at this annual event has doubled each of the four years it's been held, and planners expect more than 200 priests, sisters, brothers, and lay leaders at this year's conference. The conference brings together people who are actively involved in the leadership of Catholic gay and lesbian outreach groups; programs based in dioceses, parishes and campus ministries; and other interested people.

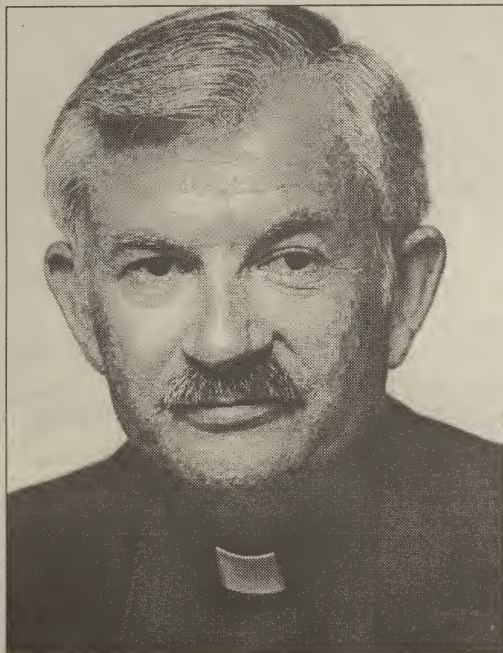
Reverend Jim Schexnayder, president of NACDLGM, said a surge of Diocesan-based ministries directed to gays and lesbians and their families has developed nationwide in recent years. He attributes the expansion to a growing openness in the Church to be more inclusive and hospitable to its lesbian and gay members.

Another older and well-known Catholic gay and lesbian organization, Dignity, is well-established across the country, but Dignity chapters have usually not been sponsored or supported by the Church. Only in the last 10 years have Catholic dioceses organized ministries aimed at gays and lesbians.

John Good, NACDLGM's vice president, said many Catholic gays and lesbians still face a struggle between their sexual and spiritual identities.

"For many of us who were born and raised Catholic, discovering that you are gay or lesbian can present challenging dilemmas," Good said. "Growing up, we were taught that the options for adulthood were either marriage or religious life."

"As gay or lesbian persons, we must come to terms not only with our sexuality, but also with the fact that we desire a spiritual life. Many of us want to continue the faith traditions we were raised with and seek support in that journey."



Rev. Jim Schexnayder sees a growing openness in the Church toward its gay and lesbian members.

Homosexual phenomenon

Although the environment for gays and lesbians in the Catholic church certainly is varied throughout the country and across the world, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops called for at least tolerance of gays and lesbians more than twenty years ago.

In a document titled "To Live in Christ Jesus," the American bishops stated that the "phenomenon of homosexuality ... is a

related issues.

Schexnayder said Long Beach was chosen for this year's conference for several reasons.

"One of the first being that Long Beach is home to one of the oldest Diocesan-based gay and lesbian ministries in the country," Schexnayder said. "Further, the southern California region has over twelve other active ministry groups throughout four dioceses. These groups are a model and inspiration for developing ministries around the country."

Attendance at this annual event has doubled each of the four years it's been held.

proper focus for the Church's pastoral care. It thus requires of her ministers attentive study, active concern, and honest, well-balanced counsel." The document goes on to say, "Homosexuals, like everyone else, should not suffer from prejudice against their basic human rights. They have the right to respect, friendship and justice. They should have an active role in the Christian community."

Current Church-sponsored ministries vary in structure and activities, Good said, although their primary mission is the same. Some programs have appointed a priest liaison to facilitate communication and develop needed programs in the community. Others have active ministry groups and outreach programs for families and specific ethnic groups.

Next week's four-day conference includes workshops on such topics as lesbian and gay spirituality; women's issues; outreach to people of color; helping the church in its ministry; and family-

Conference attendees will be welcomed by Cardinal Roger Michael Mahoney, the Archbishop of Los Angeles. Mahoney will celebrate Mass on Saturday evening and attend a special reception and fundraiser dinner and concert to benefit the NACDLGM. Anyone is welcome to attend this liturgy and reception in the Sheraton ballroom. Ticket prices start at \$50 for conference delegates and \$75 for non-attendees.

Space is also still available for anyone interested in attending the conference. Single-day registrations start at \$50, and full conference registrations are priced from \$150 to \$250, depending on NACDLGM membership and date of registration. ▼

For more information about the conference, contact the NACDLGM office at (510) 465-9344 or John Good at (562) 431-0866.

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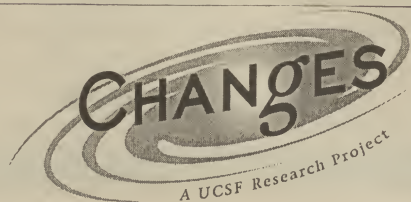
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Bud, Miller, and Coors: How much do they really give back?

by Erin Burke

Ever wonder, when purchasing a beer, what benefit the lesbian and gay community will get from the company that sells it?

Anheuser-Busch's Budweiser is a sponsor of San Francisco Pride, Coors is a sponsor of the Outfest in Los Angeles, and Miller created "Rainbows for Relief," an in-bar relief fund, but how much money actually comes back to the community? The question does not have a simple answer.

With the exception of Coors, which told the *Bay Area Reporter* it has donated close to one million dollars since 1988 to our community — \$500,000 of which went to HIV prevention organizations — the brewers hold that information strictly confidential. The question cannot be avoided: why is Coors the only beer company willing to disclose the information, and in fact, offered it without even being asked? Could Coors, a company long considered socially reprehensible, actually be the gay and lesbian community's largest contributor?

Although numerical values were withheld, there is still much information on what organizations received contributions. Miller, for example, was the first consumer product to financially sponsor and promote the San Francisco Pride Parade and Celebration, and from 1981-1996 it was the only beer company sponsor. In 1997, Budweiser joined in and was a dual sponsor with Miller. Golden Brands (Miller's San Francisco distributors) have also been instrumental to the process of gaining other sponsors for the celebration, by directing the Pride Committee toward Calistoga and Evian. The dollar amount of donations from Miller/Golden Brands strictly to the Pride Committee have amounted to over \$300,000 through 1996.

It's Miller's time

Besides being a sponsor of Pride, Miller has also sponsored the Gay Rodeo for more than ten years; the Gay Softball League's world series (NAGAAA); the AIDS Dance-a-Thon; Folsom Street Fair; and the "Up Your Alley" Fair on Dore Alley. Contributions have been made to Under One Roof, the Coronation Ball, "Songs from the Heart," and the AIDS Emergency Fund (both in general contributions to the organization and specific support to AEF's Every Penny Counts - World AIDS Day fundraiser). In addition, Golden Brands has received four Cable Car Awards between 1991-1994, including the Award for Outstanding Business, Outstanding Fundraiser, Award of Merit for "Rainbows for Relief," and Outstanding Contribution by a Business.

Miller's commitment to the lesbian and gay community obviously has its aspects of self-interest — namely that alcohol consumption is high during pride celebrations, and visibility for the company is good. Still, there do seem to be aspects that appear to go beyond mere marketing strategies. The company's endorsement of pro-gay legislation, for exam-



Miller surpasses the competition — at least in community contributions.

ple, has certainly exceeded just an advertising gimmick. Also, Miller and with its parent company, Philip Morris, are the largest corporate contributors in the fight against AIDS. (However, it should be noted, Philip Morris campaign contributions to Senator Jesse Helms were also instrumental in his re-election; that may have set back efforts to stem the spread of HIV by several years.)

Despite the backing of Helms, who received his contributions because he regularly supports the interests of tobacco growers and cigarette companies like Philip Morris, the company still considers itself pro-gay. Gina Shaffer, Miller's corporate public relations spokeswoman, told the *B.A.R.*, "We are very supportive and have been heavily involved in the gay and lesbian community for more than ten years and will continue to be involved — specifically in gay rights legislation, contributing to the fight against AIDS, and sponsoring gay athletic events such as the gay rodeo."

Unfortunately, the same support does not extend to employees in the workplace — there are no domestic partner benefits for those who work for Miller.

Is this Bud for you?

Even though Miller is half the size of Budweiser, Miller's involvement far outweighs Bud's. In San Francisco, Anheuser-Busch is a sponsor of the Building Pride Program (pennies per case purchased go toward the GodFather Service Fund of San Francisco), SF Pride (where a portion of the proceeds goes to benefit local AIDS-related, breast cancer, and gay-specific charities in the Bay Area), San Jose Pride (a portion of the proceeds goes towards San Jose AIDS-related charities), the Hell Ball, and the Folsom Street Fair, both of which donate proceeds to AIDS charities.

Budweiser considers advertising in *Out*, *Genre*, and *The Advocate* to be a national "commitment" to the gay and lesbian community. In fact, Budweiser engages in nothing for the gay and lesbian community that does not yield direct financial benefit for the company. Miller makes no money on its "Rainbows for Relief." Bud has no similar programs.

Pat McGauley, the Brand Manager of Bud Light Marketing, included no mention of a commitment to the gay and lesbian community other than seeking us out for marketing, saying, "Anheuser-Busch recognizes that today's beer consumer is not of one gender, race, or geography. We diversify

our marketing plans to reach a variety of different adults who enjoy drinking beer — men, women, assorted geographic and demographic groups, including the gay and lesbian community. Additionally, Anheuser-Busch is a strong supporter of many cultural and civic activities and actively participates in key organizations in various cities throughout the country."

In a press release, Budweiser claimed to be "the official beer of the San Francisco Pride Celebration." What it neglected to mention is that it has been a sponsor only this year, and that Miller has been one for many years.

And then there's Coors

Coors appears to play a role much like Budweiser's in terms of what it sponsors. Examples include the Portland Gay Pride Parade, the Orange County Gay Walk, and the Outfest in Los Angeles.

It is noteworthy that despite its previous right-wing leanings — and, to be frank, the continuing financial support given to right-wing causes by the Coors family that owns the brewery — Coors does have domestic partner benefits for its employees. Cinde Dolphin of Coors Brewing Company says on the subject of support, "I believe that Coors Brewing Company is most supportive of the gay and lesbian community. Very exciting is that Coors has a diversity council and has domestic partner benefits. We have not, however, received much support in terms of sales. It is often difficult to place our beer in bars."

They aren't kidding about having problems marketing in the gay and lesbian community. A bartender at the Lone Star told the *B.A.R.*, "We try to sell Coors sometimes, but none of our customers buy it. Sometimes the people from Texas order it still — like one cowboy-looking fellow that came in and got laughed out of the bar for ordering Coors." Badlands, The Midnight Sun, the Hole in the Wall, and The Detour reported much the same thing: sales tend to have Budweiser selling slightly better than Miller, but very close, with Coors trailing a distant, if existent, third.

Although there are no numbers for any organization but Coors, judging by the contributions as well as community involvement, it seems clear that Miller far surpasses both Budweiser and Coors. Still, beer companies respond to the demands of their consumers. If our community demands a higher level of commitment, we are likely to receive it. ▼

Microsoft donates \$131,000 in software to SF AIDS office

Single database created for easier access to CARE-funded programs

by Cynthia Laird

It's believed to be a first for San Francisco's Department of Public Health (DPH) AIDS Office: computer software giant Microsoft Corporation has made a donation valued at \$131,000. The donation consists of software suites that will go to nearly 70 AIDS service organizations (ASOs) that utilize the Reggie Project, a client registration and information and referral system networked among agencies that receive federal Ryan White CARE funds in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties.

The Reggie Project was initiated following development of a five-year plan done by the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council, in response to client requests for a more unified and coordinated system of care. Dr. Mitch Katz, the city's interim health director and AIDS Office director, said that Reggie, as the system is called, was a central component of the 1995 plan.

Dr. Jan Gurley, who is the systemwide development director at the AIDS Office as well as the medical director, told the B.A.R. that the DPH approached Microsoft about the donation in February. "It was a rapid turnaround," Gurley said of the time between first contacting the Washington state company and its deciding to commit to the project. "I don't think we've gotten a Microsoft donation before. They were very responsive."

She added that one of the DPH's goals is to have successful public-private partnerships to help fund various projects. Members of the planning council have reiterated that goal, particularly when it is not known how much in CARE funds the city will receive for the next funding cycle. [See story, page 31.]

The planning council itself is mixed when it comes to using CARE money to fund database systems such as Reggie. On the one hand, some members feel the funds should pay for client ser-

vices and not computer systems. Conversely, other members believe that some money needs to be allocated to the systemwide development category to provide councilmembers with the volumes of data that they request from the AIDS Office and to provide services more efficiently.

What the whole council does agree on is that agencies and public entities should follow the AIDS Office and look to outside funding sources. The availability of other resources is one factor the council is obligated to consider under the reauthorized CARE Act that was amended by Congress last year.

Reggie's status

What is Reggie? Gurley said the database uses customized computer software; the information is then networked among participating agencies. Once fully implemented, the project should simplify the intake process for clients at the various agencies. When a person goes to one agency and registers for services, their information will be entered into Reggie if the client so chooses.

When the person goes to another agency to register for its services, their information for eligibility (ASOs often have similar requirements, such as a physician's letter of diagnosis) will already be available to that second agency, providing they are linked to Reggie.

Gurley emphasized that participants must give their consent before information can be added to Reggie. Additionally, the software has been designed with several safety features to protect client confidentiality.

Once fully implemented, low-income, HIV-positive clients who receive CARE-funded services will be able to register at any one CARE-funded agency and automatically be registered for services at other sites if they choose to share their information. Gurley said the Reggie software won't allow access unless the person gives several identifiers.

"Clients will be asked if they

want to share information, don't want to share information, or share it using a personal identification number. There's lots of client choice," said Gurley.

When Gurley updated the planning council on the Reggie Project last year, she said the initial alpha test phase utilized six agencies - and when that phase ended, the agencies refused to end the test because they found it so helpful.

"We're starting to roll out the beta phase," Gurley said on Tuesday, August 26. Participating in the beta phase will be: the San Francisco AIDS Foundation; Shanti; AIDS Health Project; San Francisco General Hospital, Ward 86; University of Pacific Dental School; St. Mary's HIV Health Services; Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services; Black Coalition on AIDS; Rafiki House; and Westside Community Mental Health Services.

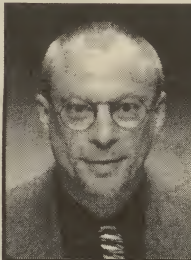
The organizations that take part in the beta phase will each receive a suite of Microsoft software. As the 60 other agencies are added to the Reggie Project, each will also receive the free software,



Dr. Jan Gurley

said Gurley.

Katz stated that no other eligible metropolitan area (EMA) in the country that serves people living with HIV/AIDS has embarked on an effort of this magnitude that will coordinate client and service information among a large number of service providers. It will provide an infrastructure for agencies to help them with reporting requirements. Agencies will also have Internet access about local and national treatment and service information, as well as e-mail connections to all CARE-funded agencies. ▼



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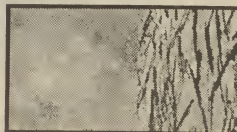
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Introducing VIRACEPT. A potent new protease inhibitor that's easy to live with.

VIRACEPT is a powerful new protease inhibitor now available for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. VIRACEPT is generally well-tolerated, is taken three times a day with your normal meals or light snacks, and requires no special dietary restrictions.

Most importantly, VIRACEPT is effective. In many people, VIRACEPT lowered the amount of HIV in the blood to levels below the limit of detection of the test used, and substantially increased CD4 cell counts after 24 weeks of triple combination therapy. And in laboratory studies, HIV obtained from five patients that became resistant to VIRACEPT was not resistant to other protease inhibitors. (The clinical significance of laboratory studies of protease inhibitor resistance and changes in viral RNA levels in blood has not been established for VIRACEPT. The virus may still be present in other organ systems.)

People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is mild to moderate diarrhea in approximately 20% of people in clinical trials. There are some common medications and some AIDS-related medications you should not take with VIRACEPT. It is important to discuss with your doctor all other medications that you are taking.

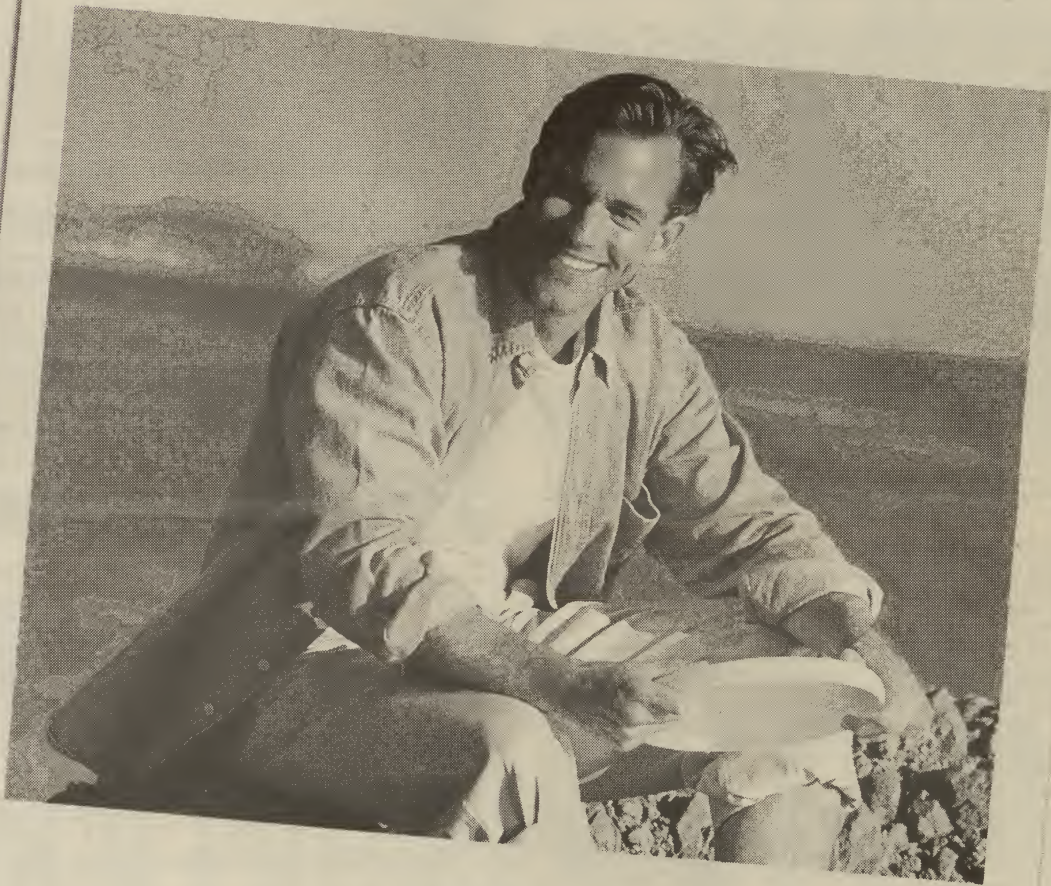
We still can't make any long-term promises, since it is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. But if you've already made the tough choice, talk to your doctor about VIRACEPT and the new options it offers. Or for more details, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit **www.agouron.com**.

VIRACEPT
nelfinavir mesylate

Refer to the important information on the next page.



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VIRACEPT

nelfinavir mesylate

TABLETS AND ORAL POWDER

BRIEF SUMMARY: For complete prescribing information, see package insert.

VIRACEPT is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when antiretroviral therapy is warranted. This indication is based on surrogate marker changes in patients who received VIRACEPT in combination with nucleoside analogues or alone for up to 24 weeks. At present, there are no results from controlled trials evaluating the effect of therapy with VIRACEPT on clinical progression of HIV infection, such as survival or the incidence of opportunistic infections.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

VIRACEPT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of its components.

WARNING

Patients with Phenylketonuria: VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains 11.2 mg phenylalanine per gram of powder.

Resistance/Cross Resistance: Because the potential for HIV cross resistance between protease inhibitors has not been fully explored, it is unknown what effect nelfinavir therapy will have on the activity of subsequently administered protease inhibitors. (See MICROBIOLOGY in complete prescribing information.)

PRECAUTIONS

General

Nelfinavir is principally metabolized by the liver. Therefore, caution should be exercised when administering this drug to patients with hepatic impairment.

Resistance/Cross Resistance: Because the potential for HIV cross resistance between protease inhibitors has not been fully explored, it is unknown what effect nelfinavir therapy will have on the activity of subsequently administered protease inhibitors. (See MICROBIOLOGY in complete prescribing information.)

Hemophilia

There have been reports of increased bleeding, including spontaneous skin hematomas and hemarthrosis, in patients with hemophilia type A and B treated with protease inhibitors. In some patients, additional factor VIII was given. In more than half of the reported cases, treatment with protease inhibitors was continued or reintroduced. A causal relationship has not been established.

Information For Patients

For optimal absorption, patients should be advised to take VIRACEPT with food. (See Pharmacokinetics and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)

Patients should be informed that VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with advanced HIV infection, including opportunistic infections.

Patients should be told that the long-term effects of VIRACEPT are unknown at this time. They should be told that there is currently no data demonstrating that VIRACEPT therapy can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be advised to take VIRACEPT every day as prescribed. Patients should not alter the dose or discontinue therapy without consulting with their doctor. If a dose is missed, patients should take the dose as soon as possible and then return to their normal schedule. However, if a dose is skipped, the patient should not double the next dose.

The most frequent adverse event associated with VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with non-prescription drugs, such as loperamide, which slow gastrointestinal motility.

VIRACEPT may interact with some drugs, therefore, patients should be advised to report to their doctor the use of any other prescription or non-prescription medication.

Patients receiving oral contraceptives should be instructed that alternate or additional contraceptive measures should be used during therapy with VIRACEPT.

Drug Interactions

Nelfinavir is an inhibitor of CYP3A (cytochrome P450 3A). Coadministration of VIRACEPT and drugs primarily metabolized by CYP3A may result in increased plasma concentrations of the other drug that could increase or prolong both its therapeutic and adverse effects. Nelfinavir is metabolized in part by CYP3A. Coadministration of VIRACEPT and drugs that induce CYP3A may decrease nelfinavir plasma concentrations and reduce its therapeutic effect. Coadministration of VIRACEPT and drugs that inhibit CYP3A may increase nelfinavir plasma concentrations.

Based on known metabolic profiles, clinically significant drug interactions are not expected between VIRACEPT and dapsone, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole, clarithromycin, azithromycin, erythromycin, itraconazole or fluconazole.

Antihistamines

Terfenadine: Administration of terfenadine with VIRACEPT resulted in the appearance of unchanged terfenadine in plasma; therefore, VIRACEPT should not be administered concurrently with terfenadine because of the potential for serious and/or life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias. Because a similar interaction is likely, VIRACEPT should also not be administered concurrently with astemizole.

Anti-HIV protease inhibitors

Indinavir: Coadministration of indinavir with VIRACEPT resulted in an 83% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC and a 51% increase in indinavir plasma AUC. The safety of this combination has not been established.

Ritonavir: Coadministration of ritonavir with VIRACEPT resulted in a 152% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC and very little change in ritonavir plasma AUC. The safety of this combination has not been established.

Saquinavir: Coadministration of saquinavir with VIRACEPT resulted in an 18% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC and a 392% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC. If used in combination, no dose adjustments are needed.

Antifungal agents

Ketoconazole: Coadministration of ketoconazole with VIRACEPT resulted in a 35% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC. This change was not considered clinically significant and no dose adjustment is needed when ketoconazole and VIRACEPT are coadministered.

Anti-HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitors

Didanosine: It is recommended that didanosine be administered on an empty stomach; therefore, nelfinavir should be administered (with food) one hour after or more than two hours before didanosine.

Zidovudine: Coadministration of zidovudine and lamivudine with VIRACEPT resulted in a 35% decrease in zidovudine plasma AUC. A dose adjustment is not needed when zidovudine is administered with VIRACEPT.

Little or no change in the pharmacokinetics of either drug was observed when VIRACEPT was coadministered with lamivudine or stavudine.

Antimycobacterial agents

Rifabutin: Coadministration of rifabutin and VIRACEPT resulted in a 32% decrease in nelfinavir plasma AUC and a 207% increase in rifabutin plasma AUC. It is recommended that the dose of rifabutin be reduced to one-half the usual dose when administered with VIRACEPT.

Rifampin: Coadministration of rifampin and VIRACEPT resulted in an 82% decrease in nelfinavir plasma AUC. VIRACEPT and rifampin should not be coadministered.

Oral Contraceptives

Ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone: Coadministration of VIRACEPT with OVCON-35 resulted in a 47% decrease in ethinyl estradiol and an 18% decrease in norethindrone plasma concentrations. Alternate or additional contraceptive measures should be used during therapy with VIRACEPT.

Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis

Carcinogenicity studies in animals have not yet been completed. Nelfinavir was not, however, mutagenic or clastogenic in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* tests including microbial mutagenesis (Ames), mouse lymphoma, chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes, and an *in vivo* rat micronucleus assay.

Pregnancy, Fertility and Reproduction - Pregnancy Category B

Comparisons of systemic exposure are based on the steady-state area under the plasma concentration time curve (AUC) observed in humans receiving the recommended therapeutic dose. Nelfinavir produced no effects on either male or female mating and fertility or embryo survival in rat studies at exposures comparable to human therapeutic exposure. There were also no effects on fetal development or maternal toxicity when nelfinavir was administered to pregnant rats at systemic exposures comparable to human exposure. Administration of nelfinavir to pregnant rabbits resulted in no fetal development effects up to a dose at which a slight decrease in maternal body weight was observed; however, even at the highest dose evaluated, systemic exposure in rabbits was significantly lower than human exposure. Additional studies in rats indicated that exposure to nelfinavir in females from mid-pregnancy through lactation had no effect on the survival, growth, and development of the offspring to weaning. Subsequent reproductive performance of these offspring was also not affected by maternal exposure to nelfinavir. However, there are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, VIRACEPT should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

The US Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises HIV-infected women not to breast-feed to avoid postnatal transmission of HIV to a child who may not yet be infected. Studies in lactating rats have demonstrated that nelfinavir is excreted in milk. It is not known whether nelfinavir is excreted in human milk.

Pediatric Use

Nelfinavir was studied in one open-label, uncontrolled trial in 38 pediatric patients ranging in age from 2 to 13 years. In order to achieve plasma concentrations in pediatric patients which approximate those observed in adults, the recommended pediatric dose is 20-30 mg/kg given three times daily, not to exceed 750 mg three times a day. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)

A similar adverse event profile was seen during the pediatric clinical trial as in adult patients. The evaluation of the antiviral activity of nelfinavir in pediatric patients is ongoing.

The safety, effectiveness and pharmacokinetics of nelfinavir have not been evaluated in pediatric patients below the age of 2 years.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The safety of VIRACEPT was studied in over 1500 patients who received drug either alone or in combination with nucleoside analogues (d4T or ZDV/3TC). The majority of adverse events were of mild intensity. The most frequently reported adverse event among patients receiving VIRACEPT was diarrhea, which was generally of mild to moderate intensity.

Drug-related clinical adverse experiences of moderate or severe intensity in $\geq 2\%$ of patients treated with VIRACEPT coadministered with ZDV plus 3TC (Study 511) or in combination with d4T (Study 506) for up to 24 weeks are presented in Table 1.

Table 1-Percentage of Patients with Treatment-Emergent¹ Adverse Events of Moderate or Severe Intensity Reported in $\geq 2\%$ of Patients

Adverse Events	Study 511 Naïve Patients			Study 506 Experienced Patients		
	Placebo + ZDV/3TC (n=101)	500 mg TID VIRACEPT +ZDV/3TC (n=97)	750 mg TID VIRACEPT +ZDV/3TC (n=100)	Placebo + d4T (n=109)	500 mg TID VIRACEPT +d4T (n=98)	750 mg TID VIRACEPT +d4T (n=101)
Body as a Whole						
Abdominal Pain	1%	0	0	3%	2%	4%
Asthenia	2%	1%	1%	4%	3%	1%
Digestive System						
Diarrhea	3%	14%	20%	10%	28%	32%
Nausea	4%	3%	7%	1%	3%	2%
Flatulence	0	5%	2%	4%	8%	3%
Skin/Appendages						
Rash	1%	1%	3%	0	4%	3%

¹ Includes those adverse events at least possibly related to study drug or of unknown relationship and excludes concurrent HIV conditions

Adverse events occurring in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT in all phase I/III clinical trials and considered at least possibly related or of unknown relationship to treatment and of at least moderate severity are listed below.

Body as a Whole: accidental injury, allergic reaction, back pain, fever, headache, malaise, and pain.

Digestive System: anorexia, dyspepsia, epigastric pain, gastrointestinal bleeding, hepatitis, mouth ulceration, pancreatitis and vomiting.

Hemic/Lymphatic System: anemia, leukopenia and thrombocytopenia.

Metabolic/Nutritional System: increases in alkaline phosphatase, amylase, creatine phosphokinase, lactic dehydrogenase, SGOT, SGPT and gamma glutamyl transpeptidase; hyperlipemia, hyperuricemia, hypoglycemia, dehydration, and liver function tests abnormal.

Musculoskeletal System: arthralgia, arthritis, cramps, myalgia, myasthenia and myopathy.

Nervous System: anxiety, depression, dizziness, emotional lability, hyperkinesia, insomnia, migraine, paresthesia, seizures, sleep disorder, somnolence and suicide ideation.

Respiratory System: dyspnea, pharyngitis, rhinitis, and sinusitis.

Skin/Appendages: dermatitis, folliculitis, fungal dermatitis, maculopapular rash, pruritus, sweating, and urticaria.

Special Senses: acute iritis and eye disorder.

Urogenital System: kidney calculus, sexual dysfunction and urine abnormality.

Laboratory Abnormalities

Few patients experienced significant laboratory abnormalities while receiving VIRACEPT. The percentage of patients with marked laboratory abnormalities in Studies 511 and 506 are presented in Table 2. Marked laboratory abnormalities are defined as a Grade 3 or 4 abnormality in a patient with a normal baseline value or a Grade 4 abnormality in a patient with a Grade 1 abnormality at baseline.

Table 2-Percentage of Patients by Treatment Group With Marked Laboratory Abnormalities¹ in $\geq 2\%$ of Patients

	Study 511 Naïve Patients			Study 506 Experienced Patients		
	Placebo + ZDV/3TC (n=101)	500 mg TID VIRACEPT +ZDV/3TC (n=97)	750 mg TID VIRACEPT +ZDV/3TC (n=100)	Placebo + d4T (n=109)	500 mg TID VIRACEPT +d4T (n=98)	750 mg TID VIRACEPT +d4T (n=101)
Hematology						
Hemoglobin	6%	3%	2%	0	0	0
Neutrophils	4%	3%	5%	1%	1%	4%
Lymphocytes	1%	6%	1%	1%	1%	0
Chemistry						
ALT (SGPT)	6%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%
AST (SGOT)	4%	1%	0	0	3%	3%
Creatine Kinase	7%	2%	2%	4%	5%	6%

¹ Marked laboratory abnormalities are defined as a shift from Grade 0 at baseline to at least Grade 3 or from Grade 1 to Grade 4

OVERDOSAGE

Human experience of acute overdose with VIRACEPT is limited. There is no specific antidote for overdose with VIRACEPT. If indicated, elimination of unabsorbed drug should be achieved by emesis or gastric lavage. Administration of activated charcoal may also be used to aid removal of unabsorbed drug. Since nelfinavir is highly protein bound, dialysis is unlikely to significantly remove drug from blood.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Adults: The recommended dose is 750 mg (three 250 mg tablets) three times daily. VIRACEPT should be taken with a meal or light snack. Antiviral activity of VIRACEPT is enhanced when VIRACEPT is administered in combination with nucleoside analogues. Therefore, it is recommended that VIRACEPT be used in combination with nucleoside analogues.

Pediatric Patients (2-13 years): The recommended oral dose of VIRACEPT for pediatric patients 2 to 13 years of age is 20-30 mg/kg per dose, three times daily with a meal or a light snack. (See complete prescribing information for dosage table.) For children unable to take tablets, VIRACEPT Oral Powder may be administered. VIRACEPT Oral Powder should not be reconstituted with water in its original container.

HOW SUPPLIED

VIRACEPT (nelfinavir mesylate) Tablets, 250 mg are light blue, capsule-shaped tablets engraved with "VIRACEPT" on one side and "250 mg" on the other.

Available as:

NDC 63010-010-27, bottle containing 270 tablets

VIRACEPT (nelfinavir mesylate) Oral Powder, 50 mg/g is an off-white powder containing 50 mg (as nelfinavir free base) in each level scoopful (1 gram).

Available as:

NDC 63010-011-90, multiple use bottle containing 144 grams of powder with scoop.

VIRACEPT Tablets and Oral Powder should be stored at 15° to 30° C (59° to 86° F).

Issued 3/14/97

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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COMMUNITY NEWS

From S.F. and L.A. to a beach in San Luis Obispo

Hundreds of bikers signing up to 'Ride for Life' in October

by Cynthia Laird

A creative concept in AIDS fundraising will become a reality on Saturday, October 18, when hundreds of motorcyclists traveling from both ends of the state converge in San Luis Obispo, where riders, the local townspeople, and supporters will enjoy an afternoon festival on the beach. It's called Ride for Life, and is the brainchild of Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF). Shanti in San Francisco has joined AHF and will also benefit from the event.

As Shanti's Doren Martin said, Ride for Life will tap into a donor base that AIDS service organizations (ASO) don't often target. But if demographic indicators are accurate, the average motorcycle rider works full-time and has the disposable income coveted by fundraisers.

AHF is anticipating that nearly 1,000 motorcyclists, approximately 500 people from each venue, will be revving up their bikes and heading out on the highway — specifically, California's historic Highway 101. The Avila Beach festival at the ride's conclusion will feature a barbecue, concert, and motorcycle fair, organizers said.

Local Harley-Davidson,

Honda, and other motorcycle clubs are planning to take part in the event. Like other large AIDS fundraisers, Ride for Life is using the team concept for riders as well as allowing people to ride on their own. Many of the biker clubs, for example, will ride as teams.

"We've gotten some great inroads into the biker community," Martin said. "I think we'll get very close to 500 riders." Shanti will be at the upcoming Folsom and Castro street fairs in an effort to register riders.

It's anticipated that in a best-case scenario, \$800,000 will be raised at the daylong motorcycle rally, festival, and concert. Of that, Shanti would get \$200,000, Martin, Shanti's development director, told the *B.A.R.* Of the total, 23 percent would go toward expenses, leaving AHF with the balance.

Hand-picked by AHF

Shanti was one of several ASOs in San Francisco that AHF staff approached over a year ago when it began planning Ride for Life. Martin said he was contacted by phone and interviewed about joining in the benefit. Shanti staff later received a call saying the agency had been selected. As Martin said, Shanti's next step was determining "if we wanted it." Executive staff

and board members looked at the proposal, looked at the numbers, and decided to go for it.

"We didn't just jump into it. We looked to make sure that it was fiscally responsible," said Martin. "We feel it has some life to it."

In part because it's being spearheaded by a Southern California organization, Ride for Life has gone after celebrity support. Most notably, Cher signed a letter that was mailed to over 15,000 motorcycle enthusiasts.

"Another good thing about it is that it's reaching a population we don't always reach, motorcyclists," said Martin.

Unlike the Pallotta Team-Works-produced California AIDS Ride Presented by Tanqueray, Ride for Life has no huge production fees; because it's a one-day event instead of one week, it does not have daily rider support costs associated with it.

Richard Bondroff, AHF's associate director of development for special events, is the producer.

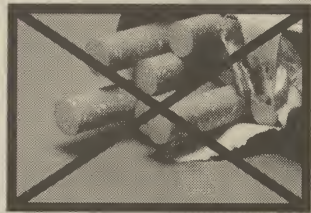
Like the bike ride event, the motorcycle riders do need to commit to raising a minimum amount of money — \$500 (per bike) — and participants also pay a nominal \$25 registration fee that includes admission to the festival

page 35 ►



Shanti's Ron Perri and Doren Martin help volunteer Jessica Beavers-booth select her Harley for the Oct. 18 fundraiser.

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CALIFORNIA LAVENDER



SMOKEFREE PROJECT

Corcoran warden urged to upgrade care for HIV+ inmates

Investigation finds 'appalling' conditions

by Cynthia Laird

Legal investigators and advocates for prisoners with HIV/AIDS called for immediate action by Corcoran State Prison Warden George Galaza to prevent what they term a "life-threatening medical crisis." In a strongly worded letter sent to State Senator Ruben Ayala (D-Rancho Cucamonga) August 14, three Bay Area prisoner advocacy groups also called for a legislative investigation into the care and treatment of HIV-positive prisoners at the maximum security prison located south of Fresno in central California.

Ayala is chair of the senate's select committee on prison management.

Conditions in the Chronic Infectious Disease (CID) Unit and the Security Housing Unit at Corcoran that were listed in complaints sent to Galaza ranged from prisoners being bitten by spiders and then not receiving treatment, to their experiencing lengthy delays in seeing prison medical staff and getting medications.

Judy Greenspan, director of the HIV/AIDS in Prison Project of Catholic Charities of the East Bay, was one of a team of investigators that completed a third investigation at Corcoran August 8-9. Representatives from California Prison Focus and Women's Posi-

tive Legal Action Network (Women's PLAN) joined Greenspan in signing the letter to Galaza after the team conducted legal interviews with 25 HIV-positive prisoners. It outlined the "serious problems with medical care delivery and living conditions." Observing that there are more than 160 HIV-positive prisoners in both the HIV and security housing units at Corcoran, the letter urged immediate action be taken to remedy:

- The absence of qualified HIV infectious disease doctors and medical staff.

- Interminable delays for prisoners with AIDS-related complications who request to see a doctor.

- Staffing shortages at the CID Clinic.

- The lack of peer education, pastoral care services, and support groups.

- Brutality, insensitivity, and prejudice by corrections officers.

- The back-up of dirty water and sewage on the floors of the unit.

"The men are not being given adequate cleaning supplies to keep their cells clean. People with compromised immune systems, like the HIV-positive men, are vulnerable to infectious diseases caused by unsanitary conditions," Greenspan's letter stated.

Cavalier to pain

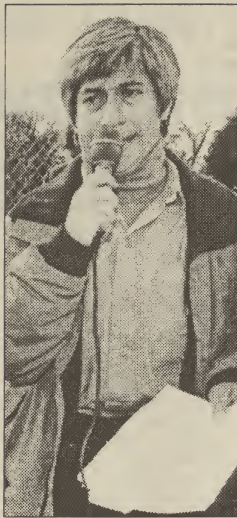
Another major problem their investigation found involved the

apparent lack of adequate pain medication for HIV-positive inmates. "[T]he CID doctor seems to take a cavalier attitude toward the pain complaints of the HIV-positive men," the letter reported. "Many of the men are clearly suffering from neuropathy, a very painful AIDS-related condition. At every other prison with an HIV unit, strong pain medication is available. Apparently at Corcoran, only Tylenol and Darvocet are prescribed. In some instances, no pain medications are prescribed at all."

The investigative team also made an urgent appeal to the prison subcommittee chaired by Ayala. "We believe that the situation [at Corcoran State Prison] has reached a crisis point, and HIV-positive prisoners may die due to the poor care they are receiving and the hazardous conditions they are living in," the group stated.

Noted Dr. Corey Weinstein of California Prison Focus, "The abuses suffered by prisoners with HIV are a significant part of the

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Judy Greenspan

Carmichael released from Corcoran prison

by Cynthia Laird

Openly gay prison activist Brian Patrick Carmichael was let out of Corcoran State Prison last Wednesday, August 20, where he had been serving five months for violating his parole violation earlier this year by stopping at an adult bookstore for two minutes to buy three condoms. Since his release from the

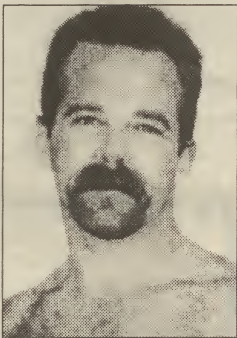
maximum security prison, he told the B.A.R. he's trying once again to pick up where his life left off.

He is also looking forward to September 24, when his writ of habeas corpus is scheduled to be heard in a San Bernardino County court. He filed the writ, placing the burden of proof on the state to justify his arrest and subsequent incarceration, while he was serving his sentence.

"I'm doing all right," Carmichael said in a telephone interview from Southern California. He is currently trying to arrange housing at the sober living program he once helped supervise, as well as medical care for himself at a clinic. He has already had to go to the emergency room, his friend and longtime supporter Angel Palmer said.

Carmichael comes out

Carmichael, who has always been candid in the numerous letters to the B.A.R. while at Chino and Corcoran state prisons, re-



Brian Patrick Carmichael

vealed he tested positive for HIV while at Chino in April. A July B.A.R. article about Carmichael alluded to his HIV status in detailing the problems he experienced trying to get his medications after suddenly being trans-

next page ►

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Ex-inmate in Illinois sues after getting HIV

United Press International

A former Illinois prison inmate who claims he was infected with HIV after repeat sexual attacks by fellow prisoners is suing the Department of Corrections.

Michael Blucker, a convicted car thief and burglar, alleges prison officials knew that many of his fellow prisoners were HIV-positive, but did nothing to stop the rapes.

The case went to trial Monday, August 25 in East St. Louis.

Corrections officials say they can't legally separate HIV-positive prisoners from other inmates without violating their civil rights. They are expected to allege that the sexual contact in prison that apparently led to Blucker's HIV infection wasn't rape, but consensual sex.

Both sides acknowledge that Blucker contracted HIV while he was behind bars.

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* says Blucker's case could have big policy implications for state prison systems - which are required not only to protect society from inmates, but to protect inmates from one another.

State Republican Cal Skinner, a Republican from Crystal Lake, says, "When a car thief gets sent to prison, [the court] sentences him to a certain length of time. It does not say, 'Oh, by the way, you might also get a death sentence.'"

Skinner has spent years trying to force Illinois to segregate AIDS-infected inmates from other prisoners. ▼

LA settles with AB101 protesters

United Press International

The city of Los Angeles has agreed to pay \$325,000 to 28 demonstrators who were beaten by police nearly six years ago, while protesting Governor Pete Wilson's veto of gay rights legislation.

Attorneys with the American Civil Liberties Union say police officers beat the protesters, called them anti-gay epithets, and charged them on horseback while they sat and locked hands on the median strip in front of the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles in October 1991.

The demonstrators were protesting the governor's veto of Assembly Bill 101, legislation that would have outlawed housing and employment discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In court papers, the ACLU contended that the beatings re-

flected a "larger pattern of intolerance, hostility, and prejudice against lesbian and gay people essentially carried out with the knowledge of the department leadership." The city had already agreed to pay \$87,000 to another protester, Peter Mackler, who was beaten at a similar protest on a different night at a different site.

"These settlements send a clear and irrefutable message," said ACLU staff lawyer Taylor Flynn, "that police in Los Angeles must uphold the right of gay men and lesbians to lawfully protest or pay a hefty price for violating that right."

The ACLU has recently complained that Los Angeles police and state agencies have been selectively raiding gay-identified bars, and said relations between the Los Angeles Police Department and the city's gay and lesbian population need improvement. ▼



Demonstrators protesting Wilson's veto of AB 101 march down Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills in 1991.

Sacramento faces AIDS in new budget

\$40.2 million set aside for AIDS drugs

by Marghe Covino

Word from Carole Migden's Assembly committee on Appropriations is that the 1997-98 California state budget contains record levels of funding for a variety of HIV/AIDS programs.

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) now is the highest-funded in the nation. A \$12 million appropriation brings total program funding to \$40.2 million.

In prior years, local agencies funded viral load testing from their own budgets. This year, there is an appropriation to bring viral

load testing under state funding in ADAP for \$3.8 million.

Centralization of ADAP will allow for bulk purchase of HIV/AIDS drugs, which will allow more drugs to be purchased at better prices. The change is expected to save an annual \$6 million.

Due to centralization, there will be a 270 percent increase in pharmacies and outlets serving ADAP clients. The number of pharmacies/outlets will increase from 565 to 1,524 pharmacies statewide.

The protease inhibitor Viracept has been placed on the Medicaid approved list of AIDS drugs.

In spite of her disappointment at Governor Pete Wilson's vetoes

of \$1.6 M for HIV testing and counseling at family planning clinics and of the \$30 million general augmentation for healthcare clinics, Migden expressed hope that the vetoed items would have a better chance next year, when more state revenue programs will be available.

She also said she was pleased that the legislature and the governor were able to agree that HIV/AIDS programs should be a priority. "Overall, and especially given the limited number of programs which received any funding this year, HIV/AIDS programs received a very high level of financial support in the state budget," Migden said. ▼

Carmichael

◀ previous page

ferred to Corcoran prison.

"I'd like to come out all the way. I am HIV-positive and was HIV-negative until April 18, when I was tested in prison," he said.

Carmichael now needs to find medical services, but said although he was accepted as a client at the Tarzana Treatment Center, he is not sure he will be allowed to live in that area; he said state Department of Corrections officials in Sacramento told him he must stay in Orange County. "They're dictating where I can live, they have a plan," he said.

Carmichael maintains corrections officials are harassing him in a collective act of revenge to get back at him for the work he did at the California Medical Facility at Vacaville several years ago around improving healthcare for prisoners, particularly those living with HIV.

As evidence of his allegation, he pointed out that he was twice arrested for questionable parole "violations." In the first case, unsubstantiated charges that were later proved bogus landed him behind bars for several months. Later, after his release, he was

forced to sign terms of parole that included 21 conditions severely limiting his ability to go anywhere or interact with anyone. Those restrictions were the basis for his arrest after his visit to the adult store for condoms, but they also made it impossible for him to enter any other store that sells condoms, or even to walk to his parole officer's office, because it is adjacent to a tavern. The conditions make it virtually impossible for him to succeed on parole, he believes.

It is not known what, if any, new conditions will be imposed next on Carmichael, who has already met with his parole agent. If next month's court case is resolved in his favor, he could complete his parole by April 1998. If not, he'll be on parole until 1999.

Corcoran conditions described

Carmichael described conditions at Corcoran State Prison, where about 160 HIV-positive inmates live in the Chronic Infectious Disease and Security Housing units, as deplorable. An investigation by prisoner advocates was recently completed and letters sent to Corcoran Warden George Galaza and state Senator Ruben Ayala, who oversees a prison sub-

committee. [See related story, page 24] Judy Greenspan, director of the HIV/AIDS in Prison Project for Catholic Charities, was one of the lead investigators.

"The conditions at Corcoran are terrible," said Carmichael. "Men are being bitten by spiders, and the bites are not treated for days and turn into big holes."

He also said that at times there's no doctor on duty in the medical clinic — or if the doctor is on duty, there are no corrections officers on duty to provide security, so the doctor won't see the prisoners. "The guys are getting sicker," he said.

While Carmichael is getting adjusted to life outside of prison, he has not forgotten about other HIV-positive inmates. He knows they are enduring less than optimal conditions around such issues as access to medical staff, medications, and sanitary conditions, and said, "I plan on helping Judy [Greenspan] as much as I can" to get prison conditions improved.

He's being pragmatic, however, because he knows law enforcement officials will probably monitor him as closely as they have apparently done in the past. "I'm definitely going to watch my back," he said. ▼

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Court deals with medical pot transport

by Dennis Conkin

Marijuana users with cases pending in court before Proposition 215 became California law last November can now argue that the initiative's medical necessity defense protects them from prosecution for cultivation and possession, according to a Friday, August 15 First District Court of Appeal ruling.

However, the court also said in the case *People v. Trippet* that the controversial marijuana initiative does not provide blanket permission for pot smokers to have or transport unlimited amounts of the herb for personal use.

The ruling was made in the

widely publicized case of Sudi Pebbles Trippet, who was arrested in Kensington, California and convicted of possession and transportation of an estimated two pounds of pot which she claimed was for her personal use for migraine headaches.

Trippet successfully argued to the appeals court that Contra Costa Court Judge Richard Patsey should have allowed a medical necessity defense.

Trippet defended her appeal before the court after firing attorney Randall Stoner for refusing to raise the issue in an April 17 hearing. Stoner had instead argued that Prop. 215 did not affect her case.

Trippet had 30 times the 28.6 grams of marijuana required to

charge her with felony possession when she was arrested in the small town near Berkeley, according to news reports.

The court ruled that there is an "implied defense" to felony marijuana transportation charges when a Proposition 215 defense is used, if "the quantity transported and the method, timing, and distance of the transportation are reasonable related to the patient's current medical needs."

However, following the Appeals Court ruling, some attorneys expressed concern that the ruling raised new doubts about whether medical marijuana clubs such as the Cannabis Buyers Club were violating the law for transporting, possessing, or selling large quantities of marijuana. ▼



Sudi Pebbles Trippet

Lungren supports medical marijuana research

by Liz Highleyman

On Tuesday, August 26, Attorney General Dan Lungren announced that he will support research on the safety and efficacy of medicinal marijuana. Lungren announced his support for Senate bill 535, sponsored by John Vasconcellos (D-Santa Clara), which will establish

a \$1 million, three-year study to be carried out by researchers at the University of California.

Lungren initially opposed the bill, but worked with Vasconcellos over the past months to devise wording law enforcement officials could agree upon. The bill was co-sponsored by Bruce McPherson (R-Santa Cruz) and Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), and is supported by the California Med-

ical Association and the American Cancer Society. The bill passed a Senate floor vote and has cleared the Assembly Higher Education Committee. The bill will next be heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee, followed by the full Assembly.

Amendments agreed upon include provisions that research personnel must be objective and unbiased, that the state must

comply with guidelines developed by the National Institutes of Health, that the Attorney General must provide an adequate supply of marijuana if the federal government fails to do so, and that research personnel will receive legal protection and authorization.

Quoting from the medical marijuana initiative (Proposition 215) passed last November, Lungren said, "The voters of California have made it clear that they want 'seriously ill Californians to have the right to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes where that medical use is deemed appropriate.' The still-unanswered question is, when is it appropriate for marijuana to be

used?" According to Vasconcellos, "Questions have been raised, and the federal government to date has failed to answer them. The voters of California have placed us on the cutting edge of this issue; it is incumbent that our state fill that research void."

Lungren was careful to point out to the state's youth that his support for the bill does not imply that he condones the use of marijuana, saying, "While I hope that this legislation will clearly define the medicinal value of marijuana, if any is to be found, I also hope we will redouble our efforts to re-stigmatize recreational use of marijuana as stupid behavior which destroys life potential." ▼

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Jury deadlocks over Marin County doctor's Proposition 215 defense

by Mike Salinas

A jury in San Rafael deadlocked Wednesday, August 20 while attempting to determine the case of a Marin County man arrested for growing marijuana. Because the defendant, Dr. Alan Ager, claimed he used the cannabis only in a medical capacity to treat his chronic back pain, Marin County Superior Court Judge Vernon Smith ruled that the jury could consider the statewide Proposition 215 retroactively as an "affirmative defense." California voters approved the proposition, legalizing marijuana when used for medical purposes, last November.

Authorities arrested Agar last September for cultivating 135 marijuana plants. His attorney, Lawrence Lichter, argued that Agar needed the marijuana for pain management because of injuries he sustained in a 1978 car accident.

After eight hours of deliberation, ten jurors voted for conviction, and two voted for acquittal. Smith then determined that the two hold-outs could not be swayed and declared a mistrial.

Keith Stroup, the executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), hailed the result, saying, "Courts and juries in California appear to be interpreting Proposition 215 in accordance with the spirit of the voters."

"When there exists a gray area in the law, they are giving sick people the benefit of the doubt."

The mistrial was one of three unprecedented developments in Bay Area pot cases in one week. In San Francisco, Superior Court Judge A. James Robertson withdrew from defendant Dennis Peron's civil trial related to the operation of the Cannabis Buyers Club on August 20, allowing a new judge to hear the case [see "Medical Marijuana defendants keep on rolling," B.A.R., August 21]. Also, the California Court of Appeals ruled unanimously on Friday, August 15 that Prop. 215 creates an "implied defense" for those who transport and sell cannabis [see related story, above].

Marin County Deputy District Attorney Teresa Leon has until next Wednesday, September 3 to decide whether to retry Agar's case. ▼

More shots in war over needle exchange



FRC's Gary Bauer

news and analysis by Bob Roehr

The battle to lift the ban on federal funding of needle exchange programs (NEP) ratcheted up a notch with dueling news conferences in Washington on Wednesday, August 20. The religious right attacked science and flaunted their new poll showing voters opposed to lifting the ban. Supporters of lifting the ban pointed to overwhelming scientific evidence that needle exchange must be part of efforts to stem the spread of HIV effectively.

Meanwhile, in California, San Francisco Democratic Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi said that she would introduce legislation in Congress to lift the funding ban. [See story this page.]

Needle exchange is "a band-aid on a bullet wound," said Gary Bauer, president of the far-right Family Research Council (FRC). "The only way to stop the spread of HIV among intravenous drug users is to step up the war on drugs." He and others in the FRC cabal see NEPs as "a wedge issue to gain drug legalization." They use a combination of denial, pseudo-science, and the "big lie" propaganda technique perfected by Josef Goebbels to attack the concept.

Dr. James L. Curtis, the septuagenarian director of psychiatry and addiction services at Harlem Hospital Center, asserted that "such programs if proliferated could lead to rapid escalation in rates of drug addiction and of AIDS." He concluded that "an influential and well-financed small

group of AIDS activists are misleading the American public to believe that needle exchange is a quick fix to the twin epidemics of addiction and HIV/AIDS."

If that is true, it would mean that the National Institutes of Health, American Medical Association, American Bar Association, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors are among those "duped" by this unnamed group of AIDS activists. All of those organizations support NEPs.

Bauer claimed that Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala has been sending public "signals" that she is about to lift the ban. But when pressed as to what those "signals" were, he responded, "I don't have dates, places, and times," but she is "favorably disposed toward this idea." AIDS activists have detected

ed no such disposition.

He hauled out a poll showing 62 percent of Americans opposed to needle exchange programs. The long, convoluted questions seemed designed to elicit that response. It contrasted with a neutrally-worded poll conducted in April for the Kaiser Family Foundation, which showed 55 percent of Americans favoring such programs.

The FRC's Robert Maginnis said that the Kaiser poll assumed the efficacy of needle exchange programs. Their poll in essence asked the responders to evaluate the science and decide for themselves whether or not NEPs work.

Mike Shriver, with the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA), joked that next week the FRC is going to call a news conference to announce that the earth is flat.

Sin or sickness?

The charade continued when the first "press" question cited Pat Robertson and asked if it might not make more sense to look at "drug abuse as a sin as opposed to a sickness." That prompted Maginnis to call Manuel up to the podium. No last name was given, but we were told he was a heroin addict for 15 years and in recovery for 15 years. He spread his arms wide as if giving a blessing, revealing both the designer label sewn on the left sleeve and sale price tag buttoned beside it, and on cue answered, "Acknowledging it's a sin is the first step."

Bauer charged that "some elites here in Washington, DC and some so-called experts are moving in the exact opposite direction" of public opinion. The FRC

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Pelosi joins fight to lift needle exchange restrictions

by Cynthia Laird

Following on the heels of high-profile support by scientists, public health officials, and national organizations, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the American Medical Association, and the American

Bar Association, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) was in town last Wednesday, August 20, to announce she's co-sponsoring legislation to end the federal restriction on funding for needle exchange programs.

Pelosi will be joining with Representative Elijah Cummings, a Maryland Democrat, in introduc-

ing the bill. Pelosi's action continues the pressure on Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to follow public health and scientific evidence and end federal prohibitions on needle exchange. HIV transmission has been shown to decrease when injection drug users (IDU) are able to exchange dirty syringes for clean ones. Despite numerous studies showing it to be effective, federal law prohibits

federal funding be used for needle exchange programs.

"One needle costs a dime, whereas the lifetime cost of treating an individual with AIDS is at least \$119,000," Pelosi said. "These programs work and deserve our support."

She said scientists have taken the lead in making the case for needle exchange programs to stop

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Financier donates \$1M for needle exchange

SF-based Tides Foundation to handle details

by Liz Highleyman

Last week financier George Soros announced that he would donate \$1 million to support needle exchange programs to prevent the spread of HIV.

The money will be given to the San Francisco-based Tides Foundation, which makes grants to a variety of social justice organizations, to fund needle exchange programs both locally and throughout the U.S. Over the next few months the foundation will develop guidelines for administering the new money. Needles cost about ten cents when purchased at a wholesale rate; Soros' donation will pay for about 10 million sterile syringes.

Soros has donated large amounts of money to fund several projects and organizations concerned with changing how the U.S. deals with illegal drugs, including the Lindesmith Center and the Drug Policy Foundation. Soros helped finance California's medical marijuana initiative, Proposition 215, which was

passed by voters last November. Former Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Joseph Califano has called Soros "the Daddy Warbucks of drug legalization."

Soros, a proponent of the harm reduction approach to drug use, said, "Probably of all the money that we spend on various projects, this is the one that is actually going to save the most lives." Soros acknowledged that his gift was intended in part to spur public debate and action on this issue of needle exchange, AIDS prevention, and drug policy.

Current law prohibits the use of federal funds to support needle exchange, and AIDS activists have been working for years to convince the administration to change this policy. According to Alan Clear of the Harm Reduction Coalition, "It's a challenge to the public health officials that a private citizen has to do this sort of thing."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over a third of HIV infections are attributable directly or indirectly to sharing needles for injection drug use. ▼

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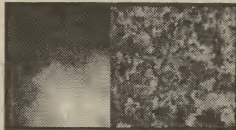
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**Hetero health dept.:****UCSF research finds low HIV transmission among straights****by Mike Salinas**

Researchers from the University of California San Francisco have completed the nation's largest and longest study of HIV transmission among het-

erosexuals, and found that transmission rates through sexual activity are surprisingly low. Women are about eight times more likely than men to become infected by their HIV-positive partners, according to principal investigator Nancy Padian, Ph.D., UCSF assistant professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences, but even for females having vaginal sex, she estimates the risk is less than one in 10,000.

From 1985 to 1995, Padian and her research colleagues conducted a study of 360 HIV-infected men and their female partners, plus 82 HIV-infected women and their male partners, searching for risk factors and examining the rate of HIV transmission. None occurred, although two men and 68 women who took part had been infected by HIV-positive partners before the study began. Calculating on the basis of the subjects' histories and activities, the researchers estimated the chance that a woman will seroconvert while having sex with an infected man is about nine in 10,000; the chance that a man having sex with an infected woman will seroconvert is even less: only slightly greater than 1 in 10,000.

The lack of HIV transmission, particularly among the 25 percent who never used condoms, is surprising when compared with other studies that found much higher heterosexual transmission rates. Padian said that geographic differences in sexual practices and co-factors for infection (such as intrauterine contraceptive devices) and misclassification of transmission due to other sources (such as needle sharing) may explain the UCSF study's lower

transmission rates, particularly from females to males.

Based on the infections that occurred before the subjects joined the study, the researchers deduced that a history of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and injection drug use greatly increased viral transmission risk from HIV-positive men to female partners. More than 20 percent of the male injection drug users transmitted the virus to their partners, and 25 percent of the women who had an STD became infected.

to-male transmission, we could not examine risk factors for these events statistically." However, in investigating the infections, researchers may have found that STDs also increase a man's chance of being infected. Padian said it was "striking" to discover that an HIV-positive woman apparently infected her partner with the virus and the STD chlamydia "simultaneously."

The other man, and his partner, had reported several instances of bleeding from the genital area after sex.

The UCSF researchers inter-

"We now know many of the risk factors that affect the likelihood of transmission between heterosexual partners."

—Dr. Nancy Padian, Ph.D., UCSF

According to Padian and her co-authors — Stephen C. Shiboski, Ph.D., UCSF assistant professor of epidemiology and obstetrics; Sarah O. Glass, UCSF research specialist; and Eric Vittinghoff, Ph.D., San Francisco Department of Public Health — the other strong predictors of HIV infection are lack of condom use and anal sex.

"We now know many of the risk factors that affect the likelihood of transmission between infected individuals and their heterosexual partners," Padian said. "Elimination or modification of these factors would result in reduced transmission of HIV."

Padian said that "because there were only two instances of female-

viewed participants as they signed up, and at six-month intervals throughout the study, where the subjects were counseled about safe sex and given physical exams. Staff members also made themselves available around the clock to answer participants' phone calls.

As the study progressed, couples radically changed their sexual behavior, to a point where 15 percent began abstaining from sex altogether. The percentage of those using condoms rose from 32 percent to 74 percent, and those having anal sex dropped from 38 percent to eight percent.

The study results are published in the August issue of the *American Journal of Epidemiology*. ▼

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Reality approach cuts STD rate in Thailand, UN finds**by Mike Salinas**

Researchers affiliated with the United Nations group UNAIDS who conducted a study in Thailand on the use of the "female" or internal condom found the devices can result in a significant reduction in the average incidence of sexually transmitted diseases. Internal condoms — polyurethane plastic sheaths that are inserted into the vagina or rectum of the receptive partner in sex — are called "Femidoms" throughout most of the world, but are sold in America as "Reality" condoms.

The researchers reported in the August 13 issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association* they divided 504 female sex workers into two groups: one that consistently used "male" (or penile)

condoms, and another given the option to use either male or female condoms. After six months, those in the internal condom group had a 34 percent decline in the mean incidence of STDs, compared with the male-condom-only group.

According to the scientists, those using the internal condom also had 25 percent less unprotected sex than the male condom users.

Reality condoms are available at area drugstores and sex shops at about \$10 for a three-pack; their cost varies widely worldwide, with the price in England more expensive, but only about half the American price in the Netherlands and some developing countries. In San Francisco, the Stop AIDS Project has made efforts to interest the gay male community in using internal condoms, with a

satisfaction survey last year, and a forum on their correct use in July. Men who have used them report a high degree of satisfaction, because unlike penile condoms they don't require water-based lubricants, they facilitate switching back and forth between oral and anal sex, and they can be put in place hours before sex. Also, most users report much more sexual stimulation than sex with penile condoms, and less sexual dysfunction.

Stop AIDS, city health clinics, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation all provide free internal condom samples to interested people. ▼

**For free Reality condoms,
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or the San Francisco AIDS
Foundation at 800-FOR AIDS.**

Gay men, lesbians, medical research overlook lesbian health

by John-Manuel Andriote

Lesbian health advocates at the 19th National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference in Atlanta July 26-30 said the health concerns of lesbians are often overlooked in medical research and by both lesbians and gay men because the medical establishment focuses little attention on lesbians, and because the health needs of lesbians have taken a back seat to HIV/AIDS as the gay community's main health priority.

Kathleen Stine, a virology researcher at the University of Washington in Seattle, said in a session devoted to bringing lesbian advocates and researchers together that a survey of lesbians and gay men in Seattle found that 35 percent of the women surveyed selected AIDS as the community's leading health concern; only 15 percent selected lesbian health. Stine noted that of the gay men surveyed, only four percent selected lesbian health needs as a major priority. "Sexual minority women's health is a back seat issue," she said.

Angela Powell, coordinator of women's programs at the Northwest AIDS Foundation, also in Seattle, said that one of the obstacles to collecting data about lesbians, HIV-related and otherwise, is "how the lesbian community is defined." Powell explained that a woman's sense of identity may not be foremost about her sexual orientation. "As a woman of color," she said, "I don't identify first as a lesbian. When am I a lesbian or middle-class or a woman of color at the table?"

More women, lesbian and heterosexual, are being invited to the medical research "table," reported Marj Plumb, director of public policy with the San Francisco-based Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA). Plumb described two major research projects getting underway that she said will catapult knowledge of lesbian health significantly forward. The prestigious Institute of Medicine has been contracted by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control to produce a major report specifically on lesbian health research needs. Said Plumb, "When we have this meeting next year in San Francisco, we should be sitting on a huge report on lesbian health research from the IOM that should take us into the next millennium in a heartbeat."

Plumb also noted that the National Institutes of Health have embarked on the largest-ever study of the health needs of women over age 50, with 100,000 women participating in the study at 40 sites throughout the country. "We need activists in those cities to recruit lesbians for the study," said Plumb, noting that so far, 4 percent of the women in the study are lesbians.

Snotty dialogue

Kathleen Stine challenged lesbians to learn about the relationship between research on lesbian health needs – and its lack – and the level of priority they receive. "Too many women don't understand the importance of research in lesbian health," she said. Joyce Hunter, immediate past president

of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association (NLGHA), sponsors of the conference, said, "Policy is influenced by data, and policy determines the money" allocated by federal funders.

In a forum devoted to exploring the role gay men should play in the lesbian health movement, Stine and other lesbians took a harder line, particularly toward "white gay men." Marj Plumb said these men are unaware of what she called their "male privilege," and "white privilege." She explained, "Men can't understand my experience because it is about oppression as a woman."

Plumb offered an analogy that

More women, lesbian and heterosexual, are being invited to the medical research 'table.'

immediately became the forum's image-of-choice when she said that, rather than getting upset when lesbians criticize them for being insensitive, gay men should "treat it like snot on your face – someone points it out, you say thanks for pointing it out, wipe it off, and move on."

Criticism – and "snot" – was abundant in the forum. But gay men in the session didn't accept it passively. Benjamin Schatz, executive director of GLMA, said, "Sometimes the best way for me to work with you is not to be yelled at – no matter how good it makes you feel." Jeffrey Akman, a Washington, DC psychiatrist who is president of NLGHA, put a fine point on his response. "I don't want to wipe the snot off my face," he said. "I want to wipe the shit off, because I've been shit on for the last one and a half hours."

Akman noted that his partner is a gynecologist who doesn't charge any of his lesbian patients. "Yet," he said, "he is turned away when he offers his services at a lesbian clinic because he is a man."

Chris Williams, director of a Seattle lesbian health clinic, said, "We only want your money. You [gay men] can't work with us." This is the way it has to be, she asserted, because women "need to feel safe" at the clinic. Said Akman to Williams, "That is not the way to get my money."

Akman was booed – Williams shouted, "Oh, come on, that's misogyny" – when he said, "The 'dirty little secret' is that the deaths of gay men from AIDS have brought attention to lesbian health issues, too." Given Akman's high visibility as president of the health conference's sponsoring organization, his remarks were much-discussed throughout the meeting.

Pre-AIDS days

Carmen Vazquez, policy director for the New York City Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, pointed out, "Until AIDS, gay men weren't playing much of a role in their own healthcare, let alone lesbian health."

Nancy Meyer, until recently the director of lesbian health services at Washington, DC's Whitman-Walker Clinic, noted the vast disparity between resources in the gay community for lesbian versus gay men's health. At Whitman-

Walker, for example, she said that only 1.5 percent of the clinic's \$20 million budget goes for lesbian health, adding, "and this is one of the best-funded programs in the country."

But the gap in funding for HIV/AIDS and lesbian health services isn't the only one that needs filling. Said Meyer, "It's not enough to tell people to write a check. You have to educate them about what the issues are." She added that both men and women need to learn about lesbian health issues. "Most men, and many women, would think of cancer," said Meyer, "but there are 50-year-old women who have never had a

pap smear. And mental health is perhaps one of the top lesbian and gay issues."

Forum moderator Eric Rofes said the gay press should look at the budgets of gay and lesbian health programs and community centers, to determine where the money goes and what their priorities are. As for gay men's role in the lesbian health movement, he concluded, "Co-gender friendships – being colleagues – is what this movement was about."

The best thing gay men can do, Rofes said, is "go to their local women's organization, and ask their lesbian friends" how they can help. ▼



GLMA's Marj Plumb: "Men can't understand my experience because it is about oppression as a woman."

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State of queer movement kicks off GLMA symposium

by Cynthia Laird

National gay and lesbian leaders discussed the state of the gay movement for the benefit of queer doctors and medical students who converged on San Francisco for the 15th annual Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) symposium August 21-23. About 500 GLMA members attended the conference at the Parc 55 Hotel.

In keeping with the "Building Healthy Families" theme, the second plenary session last Thursday, August 21 featured four prominent community leaders: attorney Kate Kendall, executive director of the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights; Paul Kawata, with the National Minorities AIDS Council in Washington, DC; author Urvashi Vaid, with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF); and GLMA's Executive Director Ben Schatz, who is also a member of the Presidential Commission on AIDS.

Kawata: Don't let race be a factor

Kawata was blunt in his remarks about HIV/AIDS. "I'm sitting with 500 doctors and I do AIDS work," he said by way of introducing his topic. Patient compliance and adherence to new drug treatments is the biggest

challenge facing AIDS physicians today, and it's being defined by race, he said.

The decline in AIDS deaths reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in July showed that deaths from AIDS decreased 19 percent in the first three quarters of 1996 as compared to the previous year. The drop in AIDS deaths, however, does not cut equally across all demographic groups; the decline

"We need to take advantage of our pluralism and take policy wars seriously."

—Urvashi Vaid,
National Gay, Lesbian Task Force

among African-Americans, for example, was only ten percent; in contrast, the decline in AIDS deaths among whites was 28 percent.

Kawata said a Philadelphia study of 1,500 people living with AIDS (PWAs) revealed no difference among PWAs in terms of accessing treatment; rather, differences did show up around physicians prescribing cocktail therapies for the patients. In other words, some AIDS physicians didn't prescribe some treatments for their patients because they didn't

think the patient will follow the drug regimens. Such an assumption is starting to look incorrect in light of recent data, Kawata said.

In San Francisco, homeless PWAs on HIV drug regimens were tracked, and it was found that their compliance rate was the same if not better than housed PWAs.

"Is there an objective standard? How do we make this assessment?" Kawata asked. "It's all

about perceptions, how we see each other as human beings. As physicians working in AIDS, I challenge you to look at what that means when you prescribe. I ask each of you to remember as you look who you're prescribing this 'magic bullet,' and I'm not sure it is a magic bullet: please don't let the difference be the color of their skin, or their gender."

The politics of visibility

Next, Vaid spoke on how the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender political style has changed



NMAC's Paul Kawata: "It's all about perceptions, how we see each other as human beings."

through the last three decades. The anger of the 1970s and 1980s has given way to the politics of respect in the 1990s — "Our style has been that we want the same things straight people have right now" — with same-sex marriage given as an example.

Today's queer community often falls victim to rebuttal arguments, Vaid said, particularly around the issue of what causes homosexuality. "When the right says it [homosexuality] is choice, too many of our leaders refute choice by ignoring it," she said. "Our movement is about choice."

Vaid said she's interested in "choice" — determining whether homosexuality is the product of genetics or the environment, as a scientific matter — but thinks it should be left out of the political debates. She also encouraged ideological diversity within the queer community.

"I don't believe any crisis — [in] health [or] politics — requires us to abandon our debates about freedom or sexual responsibility. Ideological diversity is great among us. It's a fact I relish and accept," she said.

Interestingly, it's gay celebrities who represent the gay community to the straight world, Vaid said, explaining that results in "not a very deep or sophisticated discussion of our values or goals in the media."

"It reveals to me that today the movement ... is middle-class," Vaid said, "and that's problematic."

Some major shifts need to occur within the gay movement, she said. The community should redouble efforts around the gay/lesbian voting bloc that include a multi-party strategy. "We need to take advantage of our pluralism and take policy wars seriously," Vaid added.

Kendall spoke on some of the same themes, saying, "I don't want, in our community, a single unifying ideology. A movement succeeds because of the recognition that we're all in this together."

She said the queer community faces "unprecedented challenges as a visible minority," one of which will be the Hawaii state Supreme Court's decision on

same-sex marriage.

"Unlike the 1970s and 1980s, and unlike the 1940s and 1950s, our community now has a voice," Kendall said.

Schatz agreed with those thoughts. "As you make it safer for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community to be out, they're going to bring ideas to a movement," he said.

Schatz said the gay movement is the only one he knows of that is "comprised of people who at one point said, 'I don't care what anyone else thinks about me.' That makes cohesiveness just a tad difficult."

TGs are part of GLMA

Transgender concerns were the topic at one of the symposium workshops; in fact, the confab had sessions dealing with just about every aspect of the gay community as it relates to healthcare and medical research.

A mix of people attended the workshop about transgender concerns, including some physicians who had treated transgender patients. There were lively discussions about what people go through when they transition to the opposite gender: in some cases, the "new" person blocks out the past when they were the other sex. There also seems to be a strong need among some transgender people to disassociate themselves from the transgender community once they've had sex reassignment surgery, because they are focused on blending in with society. Oftentimes, that means blending into the heterosexual community.

Relations between the GLMA and the transgender community were a bit rocky last spring following the GLMA's decision to remove "transgender" from its letterhead and other literature.

In April 1996, about 25 members of the transgender community demonstrated outside of a GLMA reception in San Francisco because of a vote by the association's board in February to remove "transgender" from GLMA letterhead and literature. One month later, the board voted 15-4 to reinsert "transgendered" in GLMA literature and on its letterhead. ▼

Cynthia Laird

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GLMA confab addresses cutting-edge HIV prevention research

by Cynthia Laird

Although researchers are still analyzing a 1996 study to determine whether a chemical added to sexual lubricants makes anal sex safer, members of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) heard preliminary details about the \$280,000 federally-funded study into rectal microbicides during a HIV prevention update session at the medical group's 15th annual symposium last week.

In addition to the topical microbicide presentation, those in attendance heard from San Francisco's openly gay interim Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz, who reviewed the landmark postexposure prophylaxis study that will take place in the city this fall.

An estimated 500 gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender physicians and medical students gath-

ered at the Parc 55 Hotel during August 21-23. The symposium, entitled "Building Healthy Families," examined ways to create and support a range of family structures in the face of serious health challenges such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, and societal discrimination.

Dr. Zeda Rosenberg, with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), discussed topical microbicides, or anti-HIV chemical agents that are applied directly into the rectum or vagina before sex.

Last year, 25 HIV-negative and ten HIV-positive gay male couples in Seattle participated in a study of Nonoxonyl-9 (N9), a detergent commonly used as a spermicide. Previous research had shown N9 to be effective at killing HIV transmission in test tubes. If future research shows it to be effective, it could act to inhibit HIV infection through anal and vaginal transmission.

Rosenberg told the audience

that topical microbicide research is important primarily for two reasons. "It's highly unlikely that a vaccine or behavioral interventions will be 100 percent protective [in preventing HIV transmission]," she said, adding, "Topical microbicides won't be 100 percent effective, either."

Men in the eight-week study, all of whom were monogamous couples, used condoms with N9, since an aspect of the research was to see what the chemical does to latex. Researchers also looked at what N9 does to rectal tissue. The men used N9 one to four times a day during the Phase I study that was developed in part by Dr. Susan Buchbinder and Eric Vittinghoff, with San Francisco's Department of Public Health (DPH) AIDS Office.

Rosenberg said the study also looked at the acceptability of N9; she pointed out that no matter how effective something is, people won't use it if it's not appealing and easy to use. Significantly, men in the Seattle study uniformly disliked the applicator. Despite that, however, men in the study said they would use it if it was shown to be effective.

At the level of N9 used, Rosenberg said the lubricant is "probably safe to use rectally."

"I predict all of you [physicians] will be asked by your patients, if you haven't already been, if they've had an [HIV] exposure, what to do," Katz said as he brought conference attendees up to date on the city's planned PEP study.

PEP, short for postexposure prophylaxis, involves providing people with HIV drugs within 72 hours of a sexual exposure. The

study is based on the research from studying healthcare workers who began AZT therapy immediately after needle stick exposures. The case control study, released in 1995, showed AZT decreased the odds of seroconversion by 79 percent in healthcare workers who had a needle stick. Although Katz acknowledged some problems with the healthcare workers study, he said PEP is worth studying for sexual exposures.

The San Francisco project is a joint effort between the University of California, San Francisco and the DPH; investigators have applied for a \$2 million NIH grant that received good initial reviews but has not yet been approved for funding.

No research has been done on PEP for sexual exposures. Risks associated with the treatment include a huge concern that people may engage in unsafe sex practices if they know PEP is available; the toxicity of the drugs; and the possibility that PEP could speed up the emergence of antiretroviral resistance.

Katz talked about a meeting several weeks ago in Atlanta at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to talk about PEP. Groups of people in health-related policy work and researchers met together; Katz said it became apparent the first day that there were clear divisions between the groups. That changed on the second day when the CDC had case scenarios presented; what does someone do if the condom breaks, for example.

"At the PEP meeting, when someone was faced with that [the

scenario], almost everybody said, 'Yes, I would offer [PEP] treatment,'" said Katz. "What we have tried to craft here, in San Francisco, is a PEP program that emphasizes prevention, which is what I urge all of you to do if you offer PEP. Make sure PEP is not, 'Here are a bunch of pills.' That's a bad thing and ultimately will hurt our population."

GLMA's outspoken Public Policy Director, Marj Plumb, was first in line for questions after the presentations. She addressed hers to the CDC's Dr. Helene Gayle, who had discussed various prevention efforts at the federal level. Plumb had put Gayle on the spot before, and jokingly said she didn't mean to.

"Yes, you do," Gayle good-naturedly responded, prompting the audience to break into laughter. Gayle is the director of the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention for the CDC.

Plumb's question was whether the CDC would consider partnering with GLMA to hold a seminar for representatives of other medical groups, including the American Medical Association (AMA), so that homophobia among healthcare professionals could be addressed.

Such a meeting would give GLMA physicians and others an opportunity to "sit down and talk about how homophobia" is present among some health professionals and how that affects gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender patients, Plumb said.

"I think your idea is a very, very useful idea," Gayle said. "Yes, I'd be very happy to think about how we could convene such a meeting." ▼

SF HIV planning council institutes first phase of CARE services overhaul

by Cynthia Laird

The beginning of what is seen as a major overhaul of the city's Ryan White CARE Act-funded services for people living with HIV/AIDS was initiated Saturday, August 23, when the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council met in a day-long retreat and initiated what members call a "multiphase, multi-year effort" of reforming CARE services. Significantly, the council approved collapsing 17 service categories used last year into seven groups that are more logically linked. All of the old service categories are still represented, but they have been reorganized to reflect the need for improved integration and service.

Diane Jones, who co-chaired the council's prioritization committee, said the changes serve to reflect the logic of services. Most of the categories that had been listed separately last year are now grouped under the broader category Other Support Services; within this group is a brand-new category, direct emergency financial assistance.

"Whatever we do today, as we go through the year, we'll continue to adjust," Councilmember Will Carter said. "This is not a one-year process."

In terms of specific dollar amounts for the service categories, the council operated on a "worst-case scenario," said Norm Nickens, assistant director of the Department of Public Health's AIDS Office. The council went through a planning exercise involving what services to cut if CARE funds decrease for the 1998-99 funding cycle. Since Congress hasn't appropriated a dollar amount for the CARE Act yet, the figures reviewed by the council are extremely preliminary, Nickens explained.

Some trends do emerge, however. The case management service category could be reduced by

as much as \$1 million under the worst-case model. The rationale used by the council is that many people have multiple case managers and that should change; the service should be client-based rather than agency-based. Additionally, the council does not want to fund stand-alone case management. Instead, funded services should include roving or onsite case managers who are linked to other services.

Nickens told the B.A.R. that housing has been identified by the council as one of the primary barriers for the delivery of services; San Francisco's high rent and low vacancy rate combine to create a shortage of affordable housing. The council wants CARE housing funds to focus on serving homeless people, low-income residents, and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Guiding the council's decisions was the test of "severe need." Each service had to meet that need, Jones said. For example, although the mental health category was recommended for significant funding cuts under the worst-case scenario, Nickens said that it reflects "more of a redirection of services" than actual service cuts. The council wants mental health services funded by CARE to treat HIV-related mental health issues, such as dementia, rather than long-term psychotherapy.

San Francisco's CARE application is due this fall; Nickens said the AIDS Office doesn't expect to hear about specific dollar amounts until November or December. ▼

The next planning council meeting will be Monday, September 22, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the sixth floor conference room at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 10 United Nations Plaza, at Market and Seventh streets. For various committee meetings, call the AIDS Office at (415) 554-9136.

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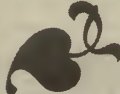
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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Neal Picklesimer

Aug. 4, 1955 — Aug. 16, 1997

Neal, 42, passed away in Plymouth, Mass., after a long and valiant battle with AIDS. He was in the loving care of his mother, Marian, as well as his four sisters and his brother-in-law. His cat, Tigger, never left his side. Neal's final days were content and peaceful; he was not in pain.

Neal will always be remembered for his expert computer wisdom; he was a computer coach to many of his friends and rescued us all after a "fatal error" had occurred. Neal also had a great love for the ocean and sailing, his cars, astronomy — life. He was a good friend to all he knew, and he will be missed.

A memorial service will be held by Neal's mother in Richmond, Va., on Saturday, Sept. 13. In December, she will bring him home to be with his friends forever in his beloved California.

Neal's family requests that any donations in his name be made to the Visiting Nurses Association of Upper Cape Cod, 67 Ter Hewn Dr., Falmouth, MA 02540.

R. Wayne Davis

May 11, 1960 — Aug. 15, 1997



It wasn't supposed to happen this way, but the gods of Hawaii had other plans for Wayne. While he was having a ball boogie-boarding on Kalihuiwai Beach, Kanaloa, the God of the Ocean, took

Wayne into his embrace. Wayne would have loved the irony of the fact that though he was fighting a seven-year battle with AIDS, he died in the sea having fun. No long, hard exit for him.

Wayne grew up in Arkansas and

came to San Francisco by way of Texas in 1989. Here he found many friends and built a life with his partner, Kyle Tonazzi, and their dog, Bijou. He was involved in many projects, especially Camp Sunburst, a summer camp for kids with HIV. As always around this time of year, he was looking forward to the annual Highbrow Society Halloween Party, and during the last Gay Pride Parade, he was fabulous as an outer-space queen in the group's contingent.

Wayne is survived by his lover, Kyle; mother, Kathy; father, Jay; sister, Karen; brother, Luther; and many loving friends. He will be missed by all.

A memorial service will be held at the National AIDS Memorial Grove on Saturday, Sept. 13, at 2 p.m. and will be followed by a celebration at 442 Noe Street. Donations may be made to Camp Sunburst, P.O. Box 2824, Petaluma, CA 94953.

Aloha, Wayne.

Edward Patrick Schottman

March 17, 1952 — Aug. 1, 1997



Ed died at home with the same grace and dignity with which he lived. He was surrounded by those who loved him — friends, family and his dogs.

In spite of being sick for many years, Ed lived life to the fullest. He loved traveling, camping, motorcycling and reading. His friends will always remember the intimate dinners he would cook and share with them.

Ed enjoyed all aspects of the arts — from grand opera to his piercings and full-body Japanese tattoo. He volunteered for Shanti, 18th Street Services, and had many service commitments during his 10 years as a member of AA.

We will all miss him dearly.

Joseph Taro Vega

March 13, 1951 — Aug. 9, 1997



Joseph passed away peacefully in St. Louis, Mo., on August 9 from AIDS-related complications. A courageous and longtime survivor of the disease, he had lived for the past two years in a beautiful

A-framed cottage on his parents' property in Warrenton, Mo.

After eight years in New York City, Joseph came to San Francisco in January 1984. A robust and exuberant singer as well as a talented producer, he soon became an active member of the local cabaret and theatrical communities. As an entertainer and a producer, Joseph was unafraid to take a chance; he

brought excitement and new ideas to clubs and theatres around the Bay Area. Encouraging and opening up new opportunities for his many friends, he produced several popular and critically acclaimed shows, such as *A Whole Lotta of Bessie in Me*, *Fascination and Dinosaurs Surviving the Crunch*. During the day, Joseph worked for the Shanti Project on Ward 5A at San Francisco General Hospital.

Joseph is survived by his parents, Francis and Israel Vega; sister, Susan Niemann; brother, Paul Vega; nephew and niece, Zachary and Salena Niemann; and his longtime friend, John Rossi. Donations may be made to Food Outreach, 4579 Laclede Ave., Ste. 309, St. Louis, MO 63108.

Michael R. Shelton

Aug. 12, 1956 — Aug. 22, 1997



To the world:
My Daddy
Mike died, and I
miss him very
much!
I thought you
would like to know.
Love, Egg
P.S. Even little
dogs cry...

Scott M. Woods

Nov. 28, 1952 — Aug. 20, 1997



Passing peacefully in the arms of his best friend, Cary Carollo, Scott blissfully entered into the realm of majestic glory. His spirit joined those beloved ones who passed on before him. He joins his mother and family of friends, whom he loved dearly.

Scott leaves many friends — Dennis, Craig, Victor, Clark, Joseph and many more. He also leaves his brothers, Gene and Regan, and his sister, Diana. Those in the American Uniform Association will miss their beloved member. He was always there to help and jump in all the activities of the club.

Scott had many interests: baking (for which he received his degree), biking, skating, collecting records and many other things. He was a volunteer at the Diablo Valley AIDS Center during the last year that he was with us. He loved to travel, and we will miss his little friend, "Bobby Bird." Live long, Scott, and prosper. We will all be with you one day.

Contributions in Scott's name should be sent to the Hospice of Contra Costa County, 2951 Harrison St., Concord, CA 94520. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, Aug. 28, at 10 a.m. at the Pittsburg Funeral Chapel, with burial to follow at the Guerneville Cemetery.

Needle exchange

◀ page 27

"intends to make it [NEPs] a major public policy priority in the months ahead." That decision is likely tied to their fundraising efforts, as it unites hot button issues of drugs and AIDS.

It was a graphic reminder of what a February National Institutes of Health advisory panel concluded: politics is the greatest barrier to effective AIDS prevention activities.

Kenneth W. Clifton Jr.

April 5, 1953 — Aug. 14, 1997

Kenneth W. Clifton Jr. died of complications due to AIDS in San Francisco on August 14 at age 44. A Pennsylvania native, he was a 15-year resident of San Francisco.

Kenneth is survived by his mother, Norma Clifton of Fairless Hills, Penn.; his best friends, Cindi Ricker of Oakland and Paula Wray of San Francisco; and many other loving friends, especially those two fabulous pussies Tad & Tina. A memorial service will be held on September 5 at 2:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Columbarium, 1 Lornine court, San Francisco. No flowers please. All contributions should be made to the SF AIDS Foundation or Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco.

Sanity restored

Dr. Mohammed Akter, executive director of the American Public Health Association, made the case for lifting the ban. He said that 90 percent of new cases of HIV infection in women, and 93 percent in children, can be traced directly or indirectly to injection drug use. He pointed to 100 existing local needle exchange programs and urged a lifting of the ban as "what will save lives."

Denise Paone said that 97 percent of those programs make referrals to treatment along with exchanging needles. Injection drug users have clearly changed their habits of sharing needles. Her report was published in the June 20 issue of *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* by the Centers for Disease Control.

She called the failure to implement NEPs "a form of public health malpractice, because it is withholding a form of treatment that we know works." She asked if we "would withhold insulin from diabetics because they eat too much sugar."

Akter said that the dangers of discarded needles is greatly exaggerated. First, exchanging needles gives them a value, much like the deposit on bottles and cans, and hence an incentive to recycle and not discard them. Second is tech-

nology. He held a needle aloft and dramatically pushed the plunger. After the injection the needle withdrew into its housing. It could not be reused or accidentally stick someone.

Jim Graham, executive director of the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington DC, spoke of their NEP. He called it "the magic bullet in AIDS prevention. It is the least expensive and one of the most effective means that we have of HIV prevention." All of their 400,000 needles a year are labeled, and 97 percent are recycled for new ones. "We are keeping dirty drug paraphernalia off the streets of the city."

Winnie Fairchild spoke to the personal impact of this program. "What is more important, my life? Your daughter's life? Your husband's life? Or a dollar bill? The people I was shooting drugs with, four of those five are HIV-positive today. Had a needle exchange program been around when I was an IV drug user, I would not be a client of Whitman-Walker Clinic today."

The major media responded with a collective yawn, even in these dog days of August. The *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and even the conservative *Washington Times* carried no coverage of these events. ▼

Hammerhead ribozymes: new engineered predators against HIV

by Marcos E. Garcia-Ojeda

Gene therapy, the manipulation of the cell's genetic material to fight disease, is considered one of the most promising tools against illness. In the not-too-distant future, it may enter our anti-HIV arsenal.

Gene therapy has been successfully used to fight genetic diseases of the immune system like ADA (Adenosine Deaminase) deficiency. ADA deficiency is a congenital disease in which children are born without the ADA enzyme needed for the generation of their own T and B cells. Without these important white blood cells, children with ADA deficiency are incapable of fighting disease and suffer from severe combined immunodeficiency.

HIV is an excellent candidate for the use of gene therapy. Traditional anti-HIV therapies – antiretroviral drugs like AZT and protease inhibitors – involve bombarding the body with toxic chemicals in an attempt to stop

the virus, sometimes successfully but often resulting in harmful side effects. Gene therapy works by introducing a "guardian" gene into a cell's genetic material, giving the cell the capacity to defend itself. HIV contains many genes that could be potential targets for gene therapy attack.

One new and very exciting approach to HIV gene therapy is the use of "hammerhead" ribozymes. Hammerhead ribozymes are engineered molecules of RNA (Ribonucleic Acid) specifically designed to seek, recognize, cut, and destroy other molecules of RNA. RNA is a type of genetic material found in all living things and some viruses. It contains the information needed to produce the proteins the cell needs. Ribozyme's RNA, however, is special: It does not contain information to make up proteins, but instead acts like an enzyme that chops up RNA molecules. Scientists can custom-make ribozymes, giving them the ability to find and recognize virtually any type of biological RNA, including viral RNA. Once the ri-

bozyme finds and recognizes its target RNA, the ribozyme can attach itself to it and only, ignoring all other types of RNA molecules. After binding to the target RNA molecule, the hammerhead ribozyme chops it up into smaller pieces that are unstable and fragile. These unstable pieces of RNA are then recognized by the cell as trash and are destroyed.

HIV's genetic material is composed entirely of RNA. HIV proteins are made from HIV's RNA molecules that have the genetic information needed to make the proteins. Hammerhead ribozymes could be designed to specifically recognize and cut HIV's RNA molecules. Think of these hammerhead ribozymes as little hammerhead sharks, surveying the inside of the cell, with vicious teeth that can only bite HIV's RNA molecules. Sounds like fiction? Well, it is not. There are currently three different clinical trials (two in the US and one in Australia) where hammerhead ribozymes are being used as therapeutic agents to inhibit HIV.

Gene Shears Pty Ltd., an Australian company, has started a Phase I clinical trial to test the safety and ability of hammerhead ribozymes to inhibit HIV in in-

fectured individuals. The study is being done in Sydney, Australia at St. Vincent's Hospital, and involves six pairs of identical twins, one of whom is HIV+. These Australian scientists will take CD4+ T cells – the cells that HIV infect – from the uninfected twin and arm them with an anti-HIV ribozyme.

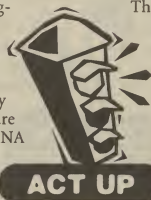
These modified T cells will then be infused into the HIV-infected twin. The study aims at establishing the safety, efficacy and possible side effects of anti-HIV ribozymes in HIV+ individuals.

Closer to home, two clinical trials involving ribozymes are also underway. The first trial comes as a result of the scientific collaboration of Ribozyme Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Chiron Co., City of Hope Medical Center, and Children's Hospital Los Angeles. They have started the first Phase I/IIa clinical study, where ribozymes genes directed against HIV will be used to modify stem cells genetically. Stem cells are essentially baby immune system cells that give rise to all the different cells found in the blood, including white and red blood cells. Stem cells from five HIV+ individuals will be armed with these anti-HIV ribozymes and later put back into the patients. Stem cells protected

by anti-HIV ribozyme genes will be able to develop into CD4+ T cells (and other white blood cells like macrophages) that will now be protected against HIV by the ribozymes. The researchers hope to determine whether the procedure is safe, how well the transplanted stem cells engraft or "take," and how long the ribozyme-containing cells will survive.

Another Phase I clinical trial is underway at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine. This trial is also designed to test the safety and function of anti-HIV ribozymes to protect human white blood cells in vivo. It is important to note that the ribozymes used in all three trials attack different part of HIV's RNA. Also, the ribozymes are being delivered to different cells of the immune system, either stem cells or T cells.

The therapeutic potential of ribozymes is undeniable. Ribozymes are fascinating molecules and have incredible potential in the fight against HIV and other diseases. We should keep a very close eye on the result of these clinical trials because they will determine the fate of this potentially life-saving technology. However, keep in mind that any kind of gene therapy against HIV should be complemented with more standard therapeutic regimens, hopefully ensuring its success. ▼



Condoms

◀ page 1

Susan Leal in asking the Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop a program.

After ten months of hearings, reports, discussions, and approval of the city's \$3.4 billion budget for 1997-98, it looks as though San Francisco – considered in many ways to be at the forefront when it comes to HIV/AIDS prevention programs and services for PWAs – will finally have what several cities across the country already take for granted: free condoms available at bars that cater largely to gay males. The annual cost is estimated at \$135,000 for some 60 bars and clubs. Advocates of the program say that's a relative bargain.

Even outspoken activist Michael Petrelis, who was one of the first to demand condoms be in bars throughout the year, seems pleased now that the program is very close to implementation. "It sounds good," he told the B.A.R. "There are kinks to be worked on, and kinks to be worked at. Pun intended!"

Although simple on paper and in theory, the real task of getting condoms into gay bars is not to be taken lightly, Gibson said. His experiences with this project bear that out. For example, he and his summer intern, Andrew Timleck, sent a letter to the 60 queer-identified bars earlier this month. While Gibson has received lots of interest and bar owners have called SAP, he said trying to get back to them via phone is difficult. Visiting the businesses is probably the ideal way to get owners interested in distributing condoms, but it does take more time, and it's a job left primarily to Gibson and some SAP volunteers.

The biggest challenge is getting bar owners to buy into the importance of having rubbers available for their customers. One exception is Philip Turner at the Castro bar Daddy's; since he opened the bar in November 1995, Turner has spent under \$2,000 per year of his own money buying condoms to give away. It was never a question of whose responsibility it is, Turner said; he just felt he had to pro-

vide them for his customers.

The other side of that argument – that condoms are the responsibility of the individual – is equally valid. Kevin Owens, owner of the Lone Star Saloon, a popular South of Market gay bar, told the B.A.R. in February that if DPH or an agency like Stop AIDS Project brought condoms to the bar, he'd be more than happy to put them out. But Owens said it's not his responsibility to pay for them; it's everyone's personal responsibility to take care of themselves.

Gibson is especially excited about the likelihood that Kimono brand condoms will be used in the bars. Mayer Labs, the East Bay company that makes them, is negotiating with SAP, and Gibson said the company has informally agreed to drop its nonprofit rate even lower to match the Lifestyles brand condoms that DPH now purchases.

"Kimono and Maxx condoms tend to have brand loyalty in the gay community. They were the official condoms of the Gay Games in New York," said Gibson. "There's a public health benefit to having a condom people like. If people see a brand they like, they'll use them."

The last part of getting condoms into bars is the containers; they must be inexpensive, easy to replace, and preferably clear so that people know what's inside. They also need to be fairly small so as not to take up valuable bar space. After making a lot of calls, Gibson found what he was looking for at a North Bay plastics company. The hexagon-shaped clear plastic will be at a slight angle, so that it's easier to reach in. The plastic containers will sit in a simple red wire stand that will have a small area for information. The containers will arrive this week.

Gibson said the importance of a suitable container cannot be emphasized enough. He recalled that once he delivered a case of condoms to a recently-closed Castro bar; the owner had expressed an interest in distributing them. Gibson returned to the bar later and the case was still sitting on the floor behind the bar, unopened.

That's something he does not want to find this time around when he goes on follow-up visits. ▼

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Come out swingin'!

by Jim Provenzano

News Flash! In yet another swift publicity move created by his underlings, The Hat is planning to actually ride a bicycle! Stop the presses!! On October 4, in collusion — excuse me, cooperation — with the Bicycle Community Project and the Rails-to-Trails conservancy, The Hat will become The Helmet and wobble about on a bike to promote a very large and expensive project to create a tunnel under Fort Mason to somewhere else, probably the Presidio, which is being gutted as we speak and converted into a theme park for corporate pigs.

Gee, whiz, last I saw, Fort Mason was on a dock! Will the Hat also become The Scuba Mask? Perhaps we'll have to worry about that later.

Since The Hat has yet to announce whether he will unleash the Judge Dredd jackboot thugs on the fair-minded cyclists of our village this Friday, as he did last month, I am hesitant to recommend that you dear readers join the Critical Mass ride this Friday, August 29 at 6ish p.m. in the Embarcadero. I'm more leaning toward joining the "wall of humanity," as one intelligent and sweet-minded reader suggested in this and other publications.

Having also recently once again involuntarily donated portions of my own bicycle to delinquent youth, after having (for the last time ever) locked my Nishiki

up out of doors, and having spent more than a few dollars in repairing it (and equipping it with an alarm that releases a toxic gas when touched by strangers), I am hesitant even to ride my bicycle anywhere in the city on the morrow, for fear that every dollar of repairs and enhancements will be chucked into a cop truck by said jackbooted thugs under the employ of The Hat.

I am also wary of the geeks and adde-brained morons posing as sentient beings who have responded with violence and threats in regard to this very topic. Why even discuss cycling in a gay sports column, one weasel cried? Well, it's about civil rights, pus bucket, something that used to be important to fags. At least they were when I was growing up.

But now that we have everything we need here in "the best place on earth" — except bike lanes, or a community center, or a bathhouse, or sufficient AIDS funding, with the exception of the bloated Christendom that more closely resembles the preposterous floating world of Gulliver's Travels than that of a service agency that does provide service — we should all just hop on our bikes and be the good, sensible cyclists that would not dare to travel in groups of more than two, for fear of being labeled a "non-permit sporting event," to quote a cop rep.

How to truly defend ourselves against such fascistic inanity? Caught between my innate radicalism and the good-naturedness of my spirit, I find handcuffing myself to anything to be passé and inconvenient while riding a bike. I quite honestly and without a hint of sarcasm recommend we all join the SF Bicycle Coalition, because they, despite the car-owning complainers, are the ones moving to-

ward effecting positive change in the way cyclists are treated on our roads — yes, our roads. In addition to having access to a bunch of fun social outlets, members get discounts and a cool newsletter, and no doubt informed opinions and perspectives on what will be remembered as Stonewall on Wheels.

The SF Bicycle Coalition is of course queer-populated and friendly, and can be reached at (415) 431-BIKE, 1095 Market St., SF CA 94103, or sfbike@cycling.org. See their faboo website at www.sfbike.org, which includes links to other cycling groups and stuff. There is strength in numbers, dear cyclists, even when you're being assaulted by thugs and automotive goons.

Play ball

Once again, it gives us great pleasure to promote Until There's A Cure Day at 3Com Park, the still quite architecturally functional multi-use stadium. Since we paid



Hard balls and bats: Don't miss Until There's a Cure Day at 3Com Park.

for it, we should continue to use it. And what better way to use it than to watch baseball this Sunday and raise \$\$ fighting AIDS, or at least sending money to organizations that were originally created to fight AIDS, but which now...

Well, anyway, this is truly a great day, when gay folk can enjoy a sort of guest star feeling in the stands. Not that it's a nasty place on other days. I have enjoyed several baseball games at the still-functional 3Com Park. The fact that Until There's A Cure Day will attract thousands of homo baseball fans, or just homos, to 3Com Park, makes the enjoyment factor in every aspect of ball-watching particularly enticing. In fact, it makes it downright sexy!

So I'll be there with a banner and a hot dog, cheering on the multimillion dollar ath-a-letes who also graciously donate several hours per year out of their busy schedules to help the cause. Something tells me, however, that if AIDS only affected major league baseball players, the cure would already have been here for several seasons.

At the Fourth Annual Until There's A Cure Day, August 31, 1 p.m., the Giants will defeat (I predict) the Anaheim Angels. Funds will go to UCSF's Ward 86, which is a very good place, except when you're waiting two hours for your PWA friend's prescriptions to be filled. Ward 86 does provide the best care around, but needs some fixing-up funds which, of course, should have come from the state, but thanks to Replicant Wilson, those funds will be diverted to the GOP Golf Course Fund.

Among the events will be the reading of names from The Quilt™ by athletes and other celebs yet to be corralled. I'd be happy to volunteer my services, but I don't think the groundskeepers could manage all the tossed effluvia that would result from my being identified in such a setting. There's some other info on that Until There's A Cure™ bracelet, but I can't read the fax, so figure it out when you get there. I'm sure there'll be a

booth somewhere between the relish dispensers.

Over the fence

It breaks my heart not to be able to report on the Gay Softball World Series, but not only did I receive e-mail about the event the day after it started, but it seems that my employers did not see fit to fly me to San Diego to witness this spectacular event. I am sure there were a lot of balls thrown and caught, and would looove to share information about this event with readers, provided the representatives of that event care to enlighten us with some facts, before decrying the lack of coverage.

Some readers, with the exception of those with the attention span of kelp, may recall that it was a year ago that this column began with this same controversy. "Why don't you report about gay sports in our community?" I will paraphrase myself with the example of the Gay Softball World Series: Not only are we not psychic here at the B.A.R., but we can't go back in time to cover an event, and usually don't care to cover an event whose publicists only remember to do their jobs after the event is over.

So it is with some hesitation that I reveal my e-mail address, opening up the floodgates of irate, inept, insane and, hopefully, a few exceptionally intelligent folk who really have an event to promote. However, letters to the editor decrying my lack of coverage of the Transgender Tiddly Winks Festival must be submitted the old-fashioned way. ▼

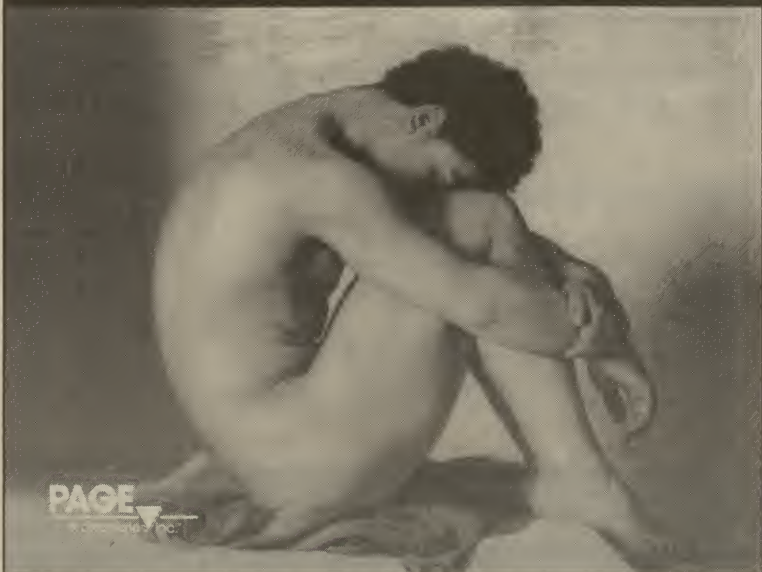
Jim Provenzano hosts the online chat version of Sports Complex every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Pacific Time on www.gay.net. Sports publicists and fans can e-mail him at jimpro@gay.net. Warning: Insults, death threats, and generally psychotic messages will be turned over to the police. In the words of Wesley Snipes in the film The Fan, "There's more to life than baseball." ▼

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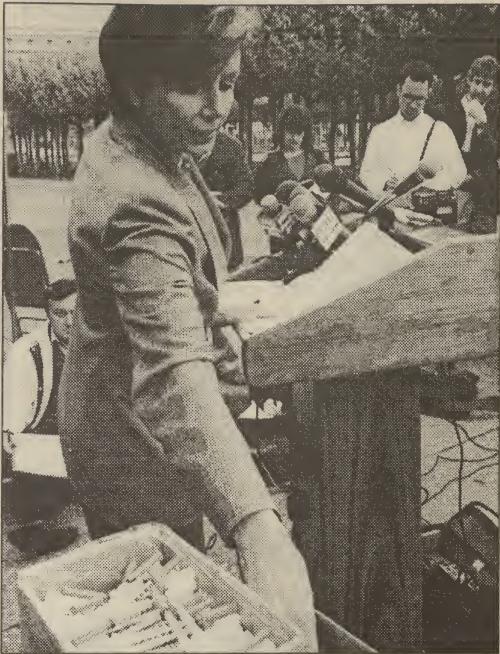
Castro gay basketball league hits the hoops

by Jim Provenzano

Basketball players take note! Starting September 11, a new Castro Gay Basketball league will begin. The league includes men and women (straight and gay), and is composed of six teams with gay captains. There will be a draft to construct the teams. The league fee is \$45 a person, and runs through Thanksgiving on Thursdays. Games are played at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 18th and Collingwood, in the Castro district of San Francisco. Everyone must sign up and submit their fee in the month of August. Games are at 6:30, 7:40, and 8:50 p.m.

For more information, call Tony Jasinski at (415) 621-2710. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS



Rep. Nancy Pelosi: "It's time to lift the ban."

Needle exchange

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the further spread of HIV/AIDS. "The data are in and the experts agree - it's time to lift the ban," Pelosi said in a statement.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF), which runs the city's needle exchange program under an emergency declaration that it's routinely renewed every other month by the Board of Supervisors, applauded the congresswoman's effort.

"Simply put, needle exchange saves lives by slowing the spread of HIV. It is one of the most cost-effective means of serving difficult-to-reach individuals at highest risk for HIV," said Regina Aragon, SFAF's public policy director. "Needle exchange is largely responsible for the low rates of HIV infection among injection drug users and their partners in San Francisco, and it was a major reason there were no reported pediatric cases of AIDS in San Francisco in 1995 or 1996."

Irresponsible inaction

SFAF officials pointed out that while Pelosi's announcement was welcome, Shalala does not need the legislation to eliminate the federal prohibition on funding needle exchange programs. The foundation continues to call upon Shalala to exercise immediately the waiver authority she currently possesses to end the federal restriction on a proven part of a comprehensive HIV prevention

strategy, Aragon said.

"Continued inaction on the part of the federal government in the face of mounting scientific evidence and growing public support is simply irresponsible. Each day Secretary Shalala delays taking action, more than 50 human beings become needlessly infected with HIV in America," said Aragon, who is also a member of the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that up to half of the more than 40,000 new HIV infections in the U.S. each year are related to injection drug use - more than 50 people per day.

SFAF's Prevention Project has provided street-based syringe exchange services to IDUs since November 1988 and is the country's largest needle exchange program; more than two million needles are exchanged annually. In 1993, then-mayor Frank Jordan declared a state of local emergency with respect to HIV infection among IDUs, paving the way for the city to support needle exchange legally.

Two recent national surveys indicate that a majority of voters support needle exchange, and a Kaiser Family Foundation survey in March 1996 found that 66 percent of all Americans support such programs. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) released a consensus report last February citing needle exchange as a vital and highly effective strategy in AIDS prevention. ▼

Corcoran

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brutal conditions at Corcoran. The medical and custody staff routinely subject prisoners to inhumane and degrading punishment."

According to Greenspan, the HIV unit at Corcoran should be closed, and the more than 160 prisoners transferred to other prison medical facilities such as the California Medical Facility at Vacaville. The men would receive appropriate care at that facility, she added.

As bad as for women...

Sylvia Gonzales, public infor-

mation officer at Corcoran, told the B.A.R. that the prison is in the process of responding to Greenspan; that letter is expected to be completed this week. She declined to comment further on the matter.

"I am appalled by the conditions faced by the HIV-positive population at Corcoran," said attorney Cynthia Chandler, director of Women's PLAN. "Conditions at Corcoran for HIV-positive prisoners are as bad as conditions at the women's prisons around this state."

A class action lawsuit by women prisoners challenging their gross medical neglect and abuse, *Shumate v. Wilson*, was recently settled in federal court in Sacramento. ▼

Ride for Life

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at Avila Beach following the ride. Additionally, all bikers must have a current valid motorcycle license. Those without a license may ride on the back of a friend or family member's bike, providing they also pay the \$25 registration fee and honor the per-bike fundraising commitment.

Shanti has invested a mere \$10,000, Martin said; AHF is picking up the bulk of expenses. The festival at Avila Beach will feature vendor booths. Income from those leases will add to the money raised by riders.

Corporate help

Several corporate sponsors have come on board, but most are contributing in-kind donations rather than hard cash. The reason is simple; this is the inaugural event, and as Martin pointed out, corporate heavyweights are unlikely to sink dollars into something that is unknown. On the flip side, if Ride for Life is as success-

ful as Shanti and AHF think it will be, the event will probably become an annual one, and that will make it much easier to solicit and get corporate funds next year.

To date, Blockbuster Video is promoting the ride statewide, placing point-of-purchase stands in their retail stores and supplying volunteers at the ride kick-offs, rest stops, and festival. Advertisements that have appeared in biker publications have also been in-kind donations to AHF, which is serving as the Ride for Life fiscal agent.

The California Highway Patrol will lend its professional support to ensure a safe event throughout the day, organizers said. Martin said that locally, members of the Women's Motorcycle Contingent have come on board and will also assist with safety aspects of the ride, as well as participate. There will be two officially designated Ride for Life rest stops; Salinas for San Francisco riders, and another in Santa Barbara for those riding from Los Angeles.

Organizers are urging those who participate to stay overnight in San Luis Obispo rather than re-

turn home the same day. The local chamber of commerce has put together special promotional packages at area hotels, motels, and campgrounds to make the event more pleasant.

Shanti provides a variety of services for people living with HIV/AIDS, including client advocacy, emotional support, hospital-based counseling, practical assistance, care coordination, recreation, and transportation.

AHF serves over 5,000 greater Los Angeles patients regardless of their ability to pay at four outpatient healthcare centers, two residential facilities, the Women's Care Center, through Positive Healthcare, the first AIDS-specific managed care program in the nation, and through the foundation's research and pharmacy divisions. ▼

Locally, people can register for Ride for Life by calling Ron Perri and Shanti at (415) 487-4720. People can also call the toll-free hotline at (800) 557-5357 for a registration kit or for more information.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 216355

The following person(s) are doing business as FIT FOR LIVING, 3630 Bassett Court, South San Francisco, CA 94080: Anthony Narducci, 3630 Bassett Court, South San Francisco, CA 94080. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Anthony Narducci. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 6, 1997.

Aug. 14, 21, 28, Sept. 4, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 216390

The following person(s) are doing business as PRIMARY PRODUCTIONS, 16 Addison St., San Francisco, CA 94131-2621: Nicholas E. Freeman, 16 Addison St., San Francisco, CA 94131. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 31, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Nick E. Freeman. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 8, 1997.

Aug. 14, 21, 28, Sept. 4, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214181

The following person(s) are doing business as VITALINE, LLC, 5000 Fulton St. #2, San Francisco, CA 94121: Vitaline, LLC (CA), 5000 Fulton St. #2, San Francisco, CA 94121. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of May 20, 1997. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Igor Cherkas, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 20, 1997.

Aug. 14, 21, 28, Sept. 4, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 988655

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LEGAL NOTICES

The following person(s) are doing business as AARTI SHINAR FINE ARTS, 2538 Balboa St., San Francisco, CA 94121: Rann Shinar, 2538 Balboa St., San Francisco, CA 94121. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 10, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Rann Shinar. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 10, 1997.

August 21, 28, Sept. 4, 11, 1997.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE
Date of Filing Application: Aug 7, 1997.
To Whom It May Concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: LECUE INACIO GRACIAN
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 3349 20TH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110. For the following type of License: 42.0N-SALE BEER AND WINE-PUBLIC PREMISES, SAN FRANCISCO District Office, 185 BERRY ST., STE 5600, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107, (415) 557-3660
August 21, 28, Sept. 4, 1997.

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HIV voc. rehab./work reentry program seeks bids for Org. Dev. consultant to create strategic operations plan and program design with ISD & CBT methods for rapid growth N-P org. Must meet min. requirements; bidding closes 8/28/97, 5 pm. AIDS Benefits Counselors - call for RFP - 415-558-9845.
August 21, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 216610
The following person(s) are doing business as VELO CITY S.F., 1662 Lyon St., San Francisco, CA 94115: Roger R. Barriere, 1662 Lyon St., San Francisco, CA 94115. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Roger Barriere. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 18, 1997.

August 21, 28, Sept. 4, 11, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 216567
The following person(s) are doing business as ASTOR FINANCIAL, 442 Post St., 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102: Jerry Jacobs, 93 Partridge Dr., San Rafael, CA 94901. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jerry Jacobs. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 15, 1997.

August 21, 28, Sept. 4, 11, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215544

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215615
The following person(s) are doing business as FORUM DESIGN, 612 Howard Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94105: Jay R. Hendler, 180 Graman Street, Suite 320, San Francisco, CA 94107; Warner H. Schmalz, 2139 Rose St., Berkeley, CA 94709. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed Warner H. Schmalz. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 14, 1997.
July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215848
The following person(s) are doing business as KEANE FIRE PROTECTION, 1113 Connecticut Street #6, San Francisco, CA 94107; Enda Patrick Keane, 3815 Susan Drive, N-10, San Bruno, CA 94066. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 22, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Enda Keane. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 22, 1997.
July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215944
The following person(s) are doing business as TRUST MAGAZINE, 460 Grove Street, San Francisco, CA 94102; Hot House Entertainment, Inc., Calif Corp., 2344 15th St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 1, 1997. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Steven R. Scarborough, president. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 24, 1997.
July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215864
The following person(s) are doing business as ISLAND MOTORS, 1145 S Revere Ave., San Francisco, CA 94124; Kwok Hung Ong, 18 Cadell Place #3, San Francisco, CA 94133. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business

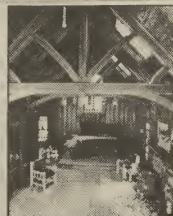
name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Kwok Hung Ong. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 22, 1997.
July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215857
The following person(s) are doing business as MONKEY SEE LLC, 450 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103; Monkey See, LLC (CA), 450 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 22, 1997. This business is conducted by a limited liability company. Signed David Tyreman. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 22, 1997.
July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 216244
The following person(s) are doing business as ZIGZAG PRODUCT DESIGN LLC, 2081 10th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 4, 1997. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Zinozy Dolgonosov. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 4, 1997.
August 7, 14, 21, 28, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 216121
The following person(s) are doing business as 1. R-K-NA 2. R K NA 3. ARCANIA, 1542 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94117; Humphrey Wou, 1542 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Humphrey Wou. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 30, 1997.
August 7, 14, 21, 28, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215492
The following person(s) are doing business as CREIGHTON'S LANDSCAPING MAIN-



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LEGAL NOTICES

TENANCE, 101 Evelyn Way, San Francisco, CA 94127; Creighton S. Seitz, 101 Evelyn Way, San Francisco, CA 94127. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 1, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Creighton S. Seitz. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 9, 1997.
August 7, 14, 21, 28, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215180
The following person(s) are doing business as SPP INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, 235 Pine Street, Suite 1475, San Francisco, CA 94104; SPP Real Estate (Management-USA), Inc., a Delaware corporation, 235 Pine Street, Suite 1475, San Francisco, CA 94104. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of November 1, 1995. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Laura S. Brom, Chief Financial Officer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 26, 1997.
Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 216291
The following person(s) are doing business as BAYVIEW HAND CARWASH, 1601 Jerrold Ave., San Francisco, CA 94124; Paul Bernard, 863 Thornhill Dr., Daly City, CA 94015. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 1, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Paul Bernard. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 5, 1997.
Aug. 14, 21, 28, Sept. 4, 1997.

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Nicole 'Claire of the Moon' Conn is back in print with 'Angel Wings,' and it sucks. See Deborah Peifer's review.

page 51

Susanna Clapp's new Chatwin bio dances around its queer subject.

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Brit flick 'Boyfriends' is a sexy psychodrama with a twist.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 32 • 7 August 1997

Bad boy

Resentment author Gary Indiana on the Menendez brothers, and the awful truth of it all

by Daniel Harris

Gary Indiana's brilliant new novel *Resentment* has finally put its author on the American cultural map. The book is loosely based on the sensational Los Angeles murder trial of the Menendez brothers, who were convicted of killing their parents, who they claimed abused them sexually. Indiana, who also wrote the novels *Horse Crazy* and *Gone Tomorrow*, uses the trial as a way of commenting on the extent to which violence, gore, and mayhem have become ordinary aspects of modern life. I recently spoke to Mr. Indiana in New York, where he has been enjoying with great modesty a number of well-deserved and long-overdue rave reviews.

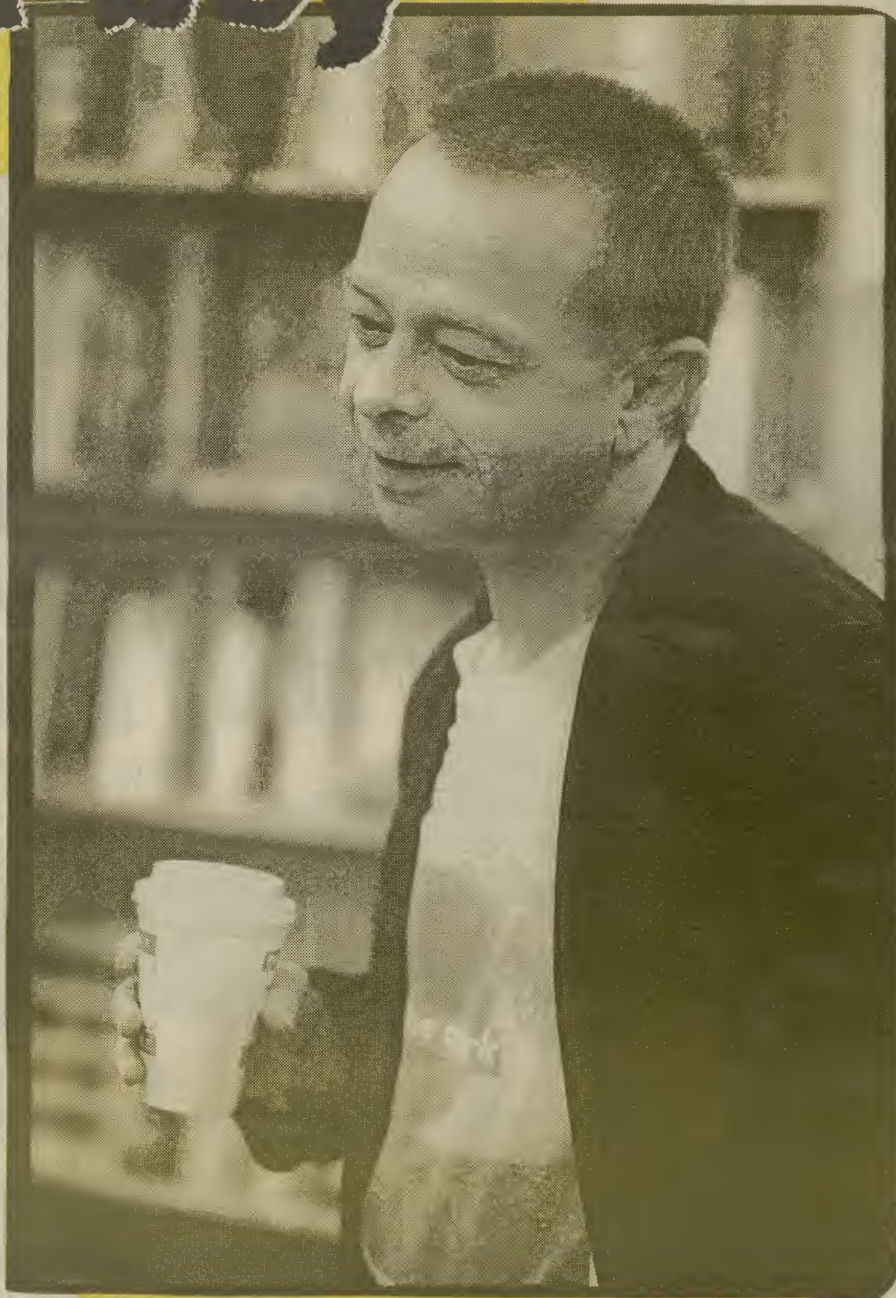
Daniel Harris: Did your interest in the Menendez trial stem from the fact that they represented Middle America? I was struck by your fascination with the phrase "rumpus room" (where the murders took place). Describe why that phrase interests you.

Because it's such a ridiculous thing to call a room. I changed certain details. It is usually referred to as the "so-called rumpus room." When absurd phrases come up in a court case, they occur within a stream of grotesquely formalized language, and so when you suddenly have something like the "so-called rumpus room" or the "so-called cheese and wine tasting event," it is so ludicrous. It makes everything ridiculous, and when you go to court — I've gone to a lot of trials — this is one of the things that jumps out at you. That's why I gave the psychiatrist, the expert witness in *Resentment*, Tourette's Syndrome. I believe that what she was saying was valid. Part of the point was that truth can come out in the container people are inclined to disbelieve just because of the way the container is shaped.

Why did you choose the Menendez trial over the O.J. trial, another kind of galvanizing Los Angeles event? Was it the homosexual theme?

That may have been part of it, but it was mainly because I found the O.J. spectacle completely boring. I thought everybody was grotesque, but grotesque in a banal way. The prosecution team was grotesque, the defense team was grotesque, the defendant was grotesque, the judge was grotesque, Faye Resnick and the families. I mean, that horrible Goldman father with that hideous mustache and the hideous sister who would cry on cue every time

page 52 ►



Marc Geller

"There's been a degree of support for my work within the gay community, but never a wholehearted embrace of it, and that's because I don't pander to people's delusions."

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OUT THERE

by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

An influential New York columnist dropped us a line this week *apropos* our comments several weeks ago about actor **Nick Scotti's** sexual orientation. You may remember that we said the indecently gorgeous star of *Kiss Me, Guido* couldn't possibly be a fag because of the joyless way he intones **Julie Andrews'** name in **Tony Vitale's** film. But **Miss Manhattan** tells us that Scotti "does indeed know the right way to say — and maybe even *be* — Julie Andrews."



Nick Scotti

Manhattan says she knows for certain that Scotti is "gay, or at least bi" because one of her chums, a writer who was working on an article about Scotti, was told by one of Scotti's publicists that the actor has "had relationships with men and women." The loose-lipped flak later became nervous about her little admission and "retracted" the statement. "Everyone in New York knows he's had relationships with men," said Miss Manhattan, and if anybody in New York would know, it's Miss M.

Fat (and less so) cats

We just can't wait for the San Francisco Opera's big 75th season to begin next week. We seriously considered forking over our life savings to secure a ticket to the glamorous September 5 Gala, but in the end we had to pass. Alas, this evening with the glittering superstars is just a little too rich for our sansculottic blood. But it's no loss, really. Sure, we'd like to see **Sutherland, Sils, and Horne** on the stage of the newly revamped War Memorial Opera House, but we'd rather *hear* them sing, and for the price of a single Gala ticket you could probably buy the complete discographies of each singer several times over.

Plus, despite the glib conviviality we generate in this space every week, we loathe evenings out with high society, and next week's big hoedown at 301 Van Ness Avenue is sure to be a magnet for all of SF's biggest **wind bags, bores, and blow-hards**. Yes, we know opera can't thrive without the moneyed classes, but just the sight of these dull doyens and doyennes in their penguin and Cinderella drag, making small talk, swilling champagne, and spearing their baby's-breath with remoulade ha-ha's in the big boring Diamond Tent always makes us feel like we've been locked in a screening room with **Resnais' Last Year at Marienbad**, and, frankly, that would be a fate worse than death.

Of course, missing the big Gala means we'll miss seeing and hearing soprano **Deborah Voigt**, one of the evening's glittering celebrities and a favorite of San Francisco Opera audiences. Debbie was once a *very* big girl, but over the past year or so, the singer has

slimmed down considerably, shedding more than 80 pounds. How did she do it? In a recent interview in *Parterre Box*, Voigt told editor **James Jorden** that she'd been seeing a shrink about her weight for quite a while, but the real inspiration came suddenly one day after world famous conductor **Georg Solti** interrupted the singer during a recording session and asked her nonchalantly, "Deborah, why are you so fat?" "I was devastated," Voigt said. "I didn't see it coming, I was really hurt." The singer immediately consulted a doctor in New York who put her on special regimen of diet drugs and a no-fat, no-sugar diet. "I'm still not finished," the singer told Jorden. "I want to take off another 50 pounds. I feel so much better." Go, Debbie, go!

As for all that talk about Debbie being a "gay icon," the singer seemed somewhat surprised to find out she'd been elevated to such a vaunted status. "I love it. I had no idea," she told Jorden. "I'm totally flattered, and I think it speaks quite a lot about what I am doing that people are receiving me so enthusiastically."

Sleight of hand

We thought for sure we'd see **Elisabeth Schwarzkopf's** name among those on the list of superstars attending the big SFO Gala, but apparently The Schwarzs doesn't get Stateside much these days, which only makes sense given that troubling Nazi past. Yes, according to *New York Times* writer **Edward Rothstein**, the great *Rosenkavalier* Marchallin has a big skeleton in her closet. In "A Chorus of Denial," an essay published in the June 29 *New York Times Book Review*, Rothstein considered evidence put forth in a new book, **Alan Jefferson's Elisabeth Schwarzkopf** (Northeastern University Press, \$29.95), that suggests the singer's much-disputed rendezvous with the Reich wasn't as benign as she'd like people to believe. Rothstein, quoting Jefferson, noted that in 1935, Schwarzkopf, then 19, "became the **Fuhrerin** of the Nazi party's student organization; one of her responsibilities as ideological leader was to keep an eye on other students." In 1938, the singer applied for party membership and later became a member of "Goebbels' Reichstheaterkammer," toiling in the propaganda ministry. "And she starred in some cheesecake films," Rothstein noted, "presumably under Goebbels' watchful eye."

According to Rothstein, Schwarzkopf's own comments over the years on her involvement with the Nazis have revealed some rather exotic dissembling. In a letter the singer wrote to the *Times* 14 years ago, after Rothstein asked her point blank if she'd ever been a member of the Nazi party, the singer denied membership, but added that "belonging to the party was no more significant than belonging to a labor union." The *coup de grace*, wrote Rothstein, was the singer's "citation of **Tosca's** proud pronouncement, 'Vissi d'arte' ('I lived for art!)" as justification for any dirty dancing she may have done on Germany's soiled dance floor.

But, as Rothstein eloquently observes, Tosca sings "Vissi d'arte" at the moment she realizes that "yes, she lived for art, but art was not enough. Despite its ministrations, she had just betrayed a friend to political enemies; she now had to leave art behind to as-

sassinate a tyrant. Her aria is not a paean to art's powers, but an elegy for art, a regret at its limitations, an expression of confusion about how unrelated moral action and taste can seem."

Sounds of dada

Openly gay fashion designer **John Bartlett** proves an enormously entertaining interview subject in the spectacular September issue of *Out* magazine (on newsstands next week). Bartlett's lively comments reveal a personality by turns cocky and sophisticated, cool, hot, sexy, reserved, and very smart. Among other interesting tidbits, Bartlett revealed to interviewer **Hal Rubinstein** that one of his favorite films is *The Sound of Music*. When Hal asked John if the **Von Trapps** are a family he can identify with, the designer wittily remarked, "No, but the father [**Christopher Plummer**] was hot. He had that whole dada thing going on, you know, the way his Lederhosen were happening, the way his suits were cut." Doubtless, The Schwarzs would agree.

Dr. Freud?

Though it is by no means a new pastime for intellectuals, **Freud-bashing** is experiencing a resurgence in popularity in the Ivory Tower, this according to an informative and slyly ironic piece by **Sarah Boxer** in last week's *New York Times Book Review*. Boxer asserts that Freud has become the *fin de siècle's* most popular whipping boy because where a previous generation saw him as merely flawed, a new generation now views him as far worse, as "untrustworthy, demented, and mendacious." To prove her point, Boxer considered a clutch of vindictive new anti-Freud tomes. **Richard Webster's Why Freud Was Wrong: Sin, Science, and Psychoanalysis** (Basic Books, \$35) argues that the "memories of scenes of childhood seduction" that Freud believed [to be] the basis of neurotic behavior were largely "constructed among Freud's various patients, or were forced on patients by Freud himself." Furthermore, the psychoanalyst's ideas about infantile sexuality were not, as Freud believed, "revolutionary," but merely a reworking of the "idea of original sin, with the infant as fallen Adam." Webster notes that in "placing what was, in effect, a confessional ritual at the very heart of the psychoanalytic movement, Freud was unconsciously institutionalizing his own profound religious traditionalism."

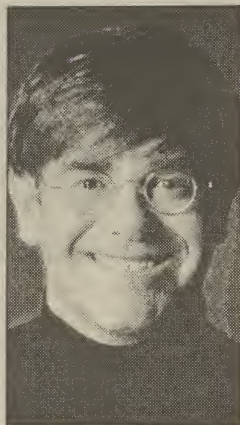
Frederick Crews echoes Webster in *The Memory Wars: Freud's Legacy in Dispute* (New York Review, \$22.95), blaming Freud for the "recent wave of false memories about childhood sexual abuse," and in **Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen's Remembering Anna O: A Century of Mystification** (Routledge, \$14.95), the author argues that the famous **Anna**, her doctor friend **Joseph Breuer**, and Freud "colluded in the creation of the crackpot science of psychoanalysis."

With tongue firmly in cheek, Boxer noted that Freud-bashing has become "so sweeping" that it's not just Freud the blinkered theorist who's under attack these days, but Freud the ironist as well. In **John Farrell's Freud's Paranoid Quest: Psychoanalysis and Modern Suspicion** (New York University, \$34.95), the author posits that "even Freud's self-mockery is sus-

pect, the work of a corrosive modernist outlook. Freud had delusions of grandeur and persecution fantasies and was committed to a belief that nothing in the world is ever what it appears to be." The thrust of this harangue? Freud "managed to pass his neuroses on to the whole world."

Real life?

Finally, on September 3, Cine-max's Reel Life Documentary Showcase will air *Tantrums and Tiaras*, a documentary about pop star **Elton John**. The film was made by John's significant other **David Furnish**. No doubt the proximity of filmmaker to his subject guaranteed an endless cash resource for the project's realization, but does it guarantee an objective portrait? You be the judge. ▼



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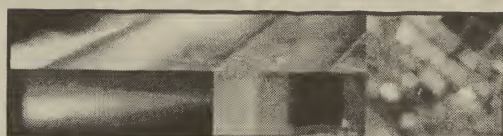
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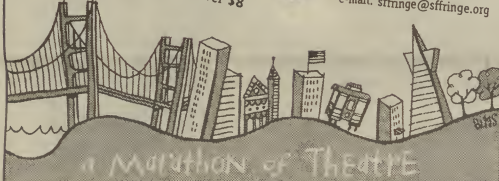
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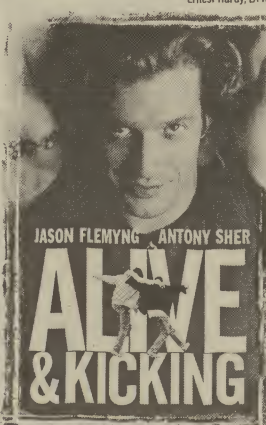
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Drama born in words and war

by Chad Jones

Some great things are happening in theater off the beaten path. One show enlivens fiction in ways never imagined, while another brings war to life with surprising power.

The **Word for Word** company, a unique theatrical troupe dedicated to the presentation of short fiction on the stage, is celebrating its fourth anniversary with one of its best shows yet. In the past, the company has presented work by **Dorothy Parker**, **Edith Wharton**, and **Rudyard Kipling**. For this show, the troupe has taken three pieces of **Virginia Woolf's** *Mrs. Dalloway's Party* and crafted a superbly detailed social event full of the intimate horror that only a truly vile party can induce. The second act, "Floor Show," a chapter from **Julia Alvarez's** novel *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, keeps the focus trained on the exaggerated drama of a social event as a family of Cuban émigrés is taken out on the town in New York by a well-meaning American couple.

Attending a **Word for Word** show is the best way to feel well-read without actually reading a book. In short, there's nothing quite like it. The **Word for Word** Fourth Anniversary Festival continues at the Magic Theatre through August 31. Call 441-8822 for more information.

In a more dramatic vein, **Viaduct Theatre Productions**, a group dedicated to Celtic drama, has such a hit in the **Frank MacGuinness** play *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme* that the company is moving the show from the funky makeshift stage upstairs at **Kate O'Brien's Irish Pub** to the more traditional confines of the Phoenix Theatre. The move should serve to introduce this stirring drama to a wider audience.

Sons of Ulster explores the plight of eight men who volunteer

to serve in the 36th (Ulster) Division at the beginning of World War I. All but one are killed on the battlefields of France during the 1916 Battle of the Somme. With subtle and disarming dramatic skill, MacGuinness is able to convey the horrors of war as well as the almost unknowable transcendence that can come from the camaraderie and, by necessity, soulful connections experienced by the young soldiers.

Under the direction of **Naomi Gibson**, the cast of eight delivers emotionally wrenching performances. Especially good are **Clive Worsley** as **Kenneth Pyper**, the troop's sole survivor and a frenetic lad of ambiguous sexuality (he is referred to as "rare boy" by his fellow soldiers), and **Ian McConnel**, who, in perhaps the smallest role of the lot, finds more tenderness in a glance than most actors do in an entire script. *Sons of Ulster* should not be missed. Call (510) 540-5554 for information.



Broadway bleating

The final few cast recordings from last spring's busy Broadway season have hit record stores, but, alas, most provide ample proof that things on the Great White Way are a little dull. The best of the lot is **Maury Yeston** and **Peter Stone's** Tony Award-win-

ning *Titanic*, but even this score never hits the emotional heights you'd expect from a show about a powerfully tragic event. The RCA Victor CD's best moments occur in the stirring "Launching" sequence, when the passengers and crew are introduced.

The piece lasts about 13 minutes and sets a tone that the rest of the score never equals until the opening themes are repeated, predictably, during the epilogue, which finds the survivors aboard the Carpathia bound for New York.

One major disappointment on the CD is the duet between **Isidor Straus**, of the Macy's Department Store Straus family, and his wife **Ida**. When Isidor was prevented from boarding a lifeboat, Ida refused her seat as well, choosing to stay with her husband on the sinking ship. Yeston has given the Strauses a love song called "Still," which attests to their undying love. Much has been made of the moment on stage, but on record the drama just doesn't come across.

Titanic has good moments but is ultimately disappointing. It doesn't sink, doesn't even capsize, but it doesn't exactly float, either.

John Kander and **Fred Ebb**, whose *Chicago* is the revival of the year, weighed in this season with an original musical called *Steel Pier*, but based as it is on the original cast recording on RCA Victor, the show might as well have been titled *A Bland, Lifeless Rip-Off of They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* The show is a wan evocation of a 1933 dance marathon set on Atlantic City's famed Steel Pier. Stars **Karen Ziemba** and **Daniel McDonald** are not dazzling performers to begin with, but given this weak material (by far the most uninspired in the Kander and Ebb oeuvre), they simply fade into the

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'Society' sneak peak

by Chad Jones

Members of the press were guests at a hoity-toity ACT-sponsored martini soirée last week in the Oak Room at the St. Francis. The occasion was a sneak preview of ACT's new co-production of **Cole Porter's High Society**. A stage version of Porter's 1956 movie musical, itself an adaptation of **Philip Barry's** *The Philadelphia Story*, was attempted several years ago in London, to no avail. Undaunted, the American production presses on. At the helm is **Christopher Renshaw**, whose new *The King and I* is still going strong on Broadway, and the musical's book is being adapted by playwright **Arthur Kopit**. A new lyricist, **Susan Birkenhead**—approved by the Cole Porter Foundation, of course—has even been brought in to massage the show's existing lyrics and to flesh out the plot with Porter tunes from other shows.

The cast features some of the brightest lights of Broadway. **Melissa Erico**, who made her Broadway debut opposite **Richard Chamberlain** in the revival of *My Fair Lady*, is **Tracy Lords**; **Jere Shea**, whom show enthusiasts will undoubtedly remember as **Giorgio**, the soldier who begins **Sondheim's** *Pasien* naked and lolling about in bed, is **Mike**, the journalist who captures Tracy's affections; and **Daniel McDonald**, late of *Steel Pier*, is **C.K. Dexter Haven**, Tracy's ex-husband. Musical direction is provided by **Paul Gemignani**, a frequent Sondheim collaborator. **Marc Kudisch** (pictured) is **George Kittredge**.

Judging from this sneak peak, the show looks really *yar* (if you don't know what that means, rent the movie). *High Society* opens Wednesday, September 10 at American Conservatory Theatre. ▼



COMEDY

The comic you love to love

Marga Gomez wows 'em at Josie's despite flawed 'Fly'

by Chad Jones

Everybody's favorite Latina lesbian comic has been away for what seems like ages (actually only a few months), but Marga Gomez is back at Josie's Cabaret for a brief pit-stop in the relentless promotion of her new comedy CD, which just happens to have the same title as her current show: *Hung Like a Fly*. The CD was recorded earlier this year at Josie's during the run of Gomez's show *Choking the Chicken*, and the new piece features material from that show, plus some new material, mostly about her recent gig in Provincetown.

The great thing about Gomez is her very presence. She loves being up there in that spotlight, and the audience loves to have her there. She's a comic they can talk to who talks back. She gets raunchy, but she's approachable and adorable. Even when her jokes are weak, which in this show accounts for about a good third of the material, the Gomez persona puts it across. All she has to do is remark on what a lousy punch line she just delivered, grin her goofy grin, flip her semi-styled hair, bat her eyelashes, and release a throaty chortle. The San Francisco audience — primarily enthralled women on opening night last week — loves her no matter what.

A lot of the best material in *Hung Like a Fly* comes in-between the written jokes, when Gomez is free-falling to the delight of her fans. She said at the top of her set that she realizes many people come to see her solely because they know she has no idea "what the fuck she's going to do. Maybe she'll have a nervous breakdown!" She didn't come close to the latter, but she did often seem not to know her way through the jokes. As she wandered somewhat aimlessly through the Provincetown material, she only occasionally hit on big laughs. As an aside, she admitted that a person's sexuality doesn't matter — gay, straight, whatever. "The thing that really matters is if they're a top or a bottom." Or while perusing the crap in a tourist mall, she stumbles across a heavy-duty leather booth, or "the IKEA for leather masters." That got a

big laugh, but when she added that the booth was the kind of place that would make even Mr. Marcus avert his eyes, the response was, as Gomez admitted, less than she'd hoped for. While struggling to get back on track, Gomez started riffing on *The Story of O* and came up with the idea of performing a one-woman version of that erotica classic on the Josie's stage. Producers take note. There was definite audience interest.

When a bit about a tourist booth at which names are carved on grains of rice began to stall, Gomez paused for a Streisand moment. "Do I look attractive?" she asked the audience, as if she had no idea how they would respond. After the applause died down, she added, "Oh, good. Not that it matters. The work is what's important." The Provincetown bit continued to wander through an adventure in a straight karaoke bar, her annoyance with the concept of the Bed and Breakfast (she suggested a "Bed and Lunch" or perhaps "Bed, Cigarettes and Vodka"), and an unfortunate dating experience involving lobster, but the material never really took off. There's some good stuff in there, but it needs trimming.

Gomez really hit her stride during the home stretch of her 70-minute set, especially when detailing her experiences in her new abode. She has relocated to Los Angeles on the basis of recent success. This Christmas she'll appear in the Warner Brothers film *Sphere*, based on the book by Michael Crichton. Gomez has a small part alongside Dustin Hoffman and Sharon Stone (and no, Gomez only had lunch with her). Success hasn't seemed to spoil the comic yet, but there's no way a stand-up show such as *Hung Like a Fly* can compare to the dramatic monologues Gomez has written and performed about her mother and father in recent years. Still, it's great fun to see someone as appealing as Marga Gomez talking about the lack of available women in the Southland. "So what do I do? I masturbate. I'm in LA." ▼

Marga Gomez's *Hung Like a Fly* continues at Josie's Cabaret through Aug. 31. Call 861-7933 for information.



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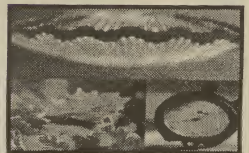
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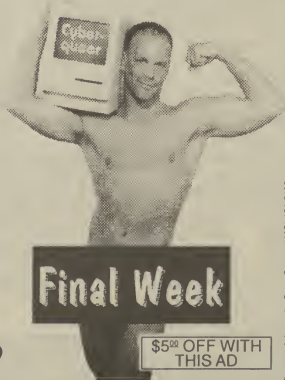


Photo and design by Steve Savage (415) 468-8010

Love and anarchy

'Boyfriends' dissects gay love in the '90s

by Gary Morris

The bitchy, bittersweet gay ensemble movie à la *The Boys in the Band*, *It's My Party*, or *Love! Valour! Compassion!* has become a familiar, if not always welcome, cinematic subgenre. All the elements of the drama are narrowed and the focus concentrated — the setting is usually a single, claustrophobic space; the time is typically compressed into a single night or a weekend; and the characters are invariably a handful of friends in their 30s or older who get together for what starts as a simple social gathering and ends with a series of break-ups, breakdowns, and reconciliations, with a little bed-hopping thrown in for good measure. Sexy window-dressing often appears in the form of an unapologetically lustful, younger twink-outsider who wreaks havoc on the couples' relationships.

Boyfriends, which has all of these elements, is a smaller and in some ways sweeter version of its more blustery cousins. Written, produced, and directed in England by Neil Hunter and Tom Hunsinger, it's one of the better examples in the canon, wisely taking advantage of what initially may seem like drawbacks. Unlike *Boys* or *Love!*, there's no theatrical pedigree and thus no pre-sold audience. This is a low-budget film, shot in a mere 18 days with a cast

of unknown actors. But the lack of familiar faces, plus the intentionally rough lighting and framing, gives the story an immediacy and freshness that are often disarming. Most of all, this well-acted film generously makes room for the complex traits of its couples-in-distress, incorporating sarcasm, sensuality, and psychodrama with equal skill.

The setting of *Boyfriends* is an unpretentious country cottage (not reminiscent of the plush digs of *It's My Party* or *Love! Valour! Compassion!*) away from the bustle of London. Owner Paul (James Dreyfus) and his lover Ben (Mark Sands) invite two friends to join them for a pleasant weekend. Will (David Coffey) is a social worker who brings his latest trick, a who-rish, 20-year-old former client named Adam (Darren Petrucci). Goody-goody Matt (Michael Unwin) brings his boyfriend of three months, the promiscuous, distracted Owen (Andrew Ableson). Amidst all the cooking, cleaning, and nature walks, each of these three couples sees their relationships, where they exist at all, unraveling before their eyes.

Will cons the reluctant Adam into coming on the trip by telling the younger man, "It'll give you a chance to see a group of well-adjusted homosexual men." Adam's life-lesson, however, doesn't quite materialize, because these men are anything but well-adjusted. Aggressive, bitchy Paul is distressed



Michael Unwin, Andrew Ableson, and Darren Petrucci in *Boyfriends*.

at the death of his brother, and spends much of his time haranguing Ben, who retreats into long silences broken by spells of talking to his plants, which he be-

lieves are being systematically murdered by Paul. "I bet Paul gave you something nasty, did he?" Ben whispers to one shriveled specimen. "Did Paul give you something?"

Matt tries to choreograph a picture-book romance with the reluctant Owen, overpowering him with love and elaborate, beautifully arranged meals. Owen's response? "You've no idea what it's like being loved by Matt," he complains to a friend of Matt's whom he's "shagged" in a woodland tryst. "It's like being smothered by a huge bear. That's what our sex was — me trying to breathe."

Will and Adam are on even shakier ground than the others, having spent only a night together before arriving at the cottage. Will is a hopeless romantic, but Adam is faithful to his one-night-stands-only code. An ingratiating fuckhound who tries to screw his way through the group, he blithely swaps beds with the frustrated

Will in order to facilitate his amours. Like Randy Becker in *Love!* or Robert La Tourneaux in *Boys*, he's a working-class outsider disliked by his more bourgeois patrons and irrationally blamed for their problems. A drunken Paul complains about him: "You know there are two t's in 'settee' and he doesn't use either of them!" In a typical scene, Adam tries to initiate a three-way with Matt and Owen. When Matt's chilliness ends the lovemaking, Adam simply shrugs and runs off to bed Ben, who is vulnerable after a break-up with Paul.

Adam's refusal to take any of the other characters seriously provides much of the film's comic relief. Interviewed by Paul for a vague video project, he comments on the "well-adjusted homosexual men" he's met during the weekend. "Everyone's been really friendly ... they're a bit mixed up. They've all got problems. They're all quite old." After the jilted Will

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Five years young

'In the Life': queer TV celebrates milestone

by Gary Morris

Bob Dole denounced it on the Senate floor, with the ominous warning that behind the "innocent pleasures" of Big Bird and Masterpiece Theatre lurked a "gay Ed Sullivan Show!" He was referring to PBS' queer newsmagazine *In the Life*, yet while Dole has been reduced to whoring for the advertisement industry, *In the Life* is flourishing. The August/September edition of this bimonthly series celebrates its first five years on the air with a look back at some of the program's highlights.

Host Katherine Linton traces the history of the show in her super-earnest manner. The original strategy of offering simply "a half-hour of quality entertainment and celebrity performance for gay men and lesbians" reflects the historical tendency of queers and other marginalized groups to win mainstream approval through the arts. Some of the acts, like the queer hoe-down with Doug Stevens and the Outband, strike an amusingly weird chord, coming off as distorted versions of the kinds of kitschy routines once seen on *The Lawrence Welk Show*. Still, even this seemingly safe approach had a radical tinge.



The Lady Chablis

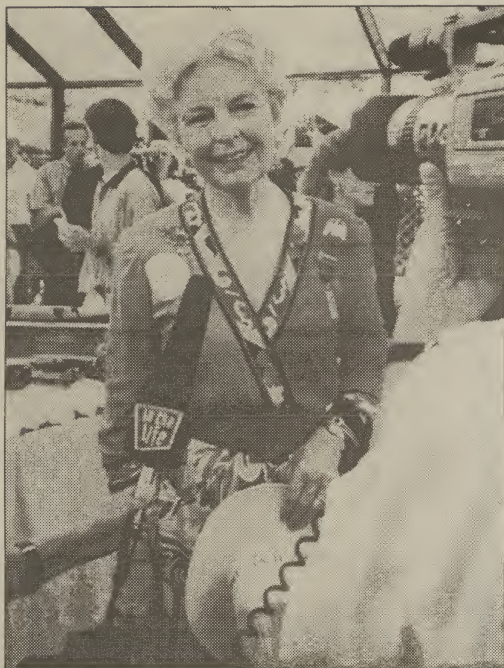
After all, the show is seen across America on PBS, not just on cable access. As comic Kate Clinton says, *In the Life* "showed more gay men and lesbians than had ever been seen on national TV."

By the third episode, the series was successful enough to go on location — and where else but Hollywood? The festive aspect continued to prevail, with advertising send-ups about imaginary products like "Gaydar," Lea DeLaria screaming while straddling a huge white cannon, and the first gay weather report in history ("Leave those umbrellas home, it

ain't gonna rain on our parade!").

The more successful the show became, the faster it outgrew its variety show format. A segment called "School's Out!" introduced a more political tone by interviewing queer high school students. By the second season, *In the Life* began to include coverage of larger events like the March on Washington. "Part of our mission was to document major historic events for gays and lesbians," says Katherine Linton. This strategy continued with on-the-scene reports from the 1994 Stonewall 25 celebration, the 1995 U.N. World Conference on Women in Beijing, and the dreaded 1996 Republican Convention. *In the Life* offered the best — sometimes the only — television coverage of the queer aspects of the last two events. Viewers at the mercy of the media monoliths might not have known there was such a thing as a "lesbian tent" in China or that progressive queers were raging outside the Republicans' pathetic puppet.

Gay artistry continued to be an important subject for the series, but not in the simple-minded way of the earliest shows, where an act came on, performed, then left. Segments like the one devoted to legendary genderbender The Lady Chablis enrich the story by con-



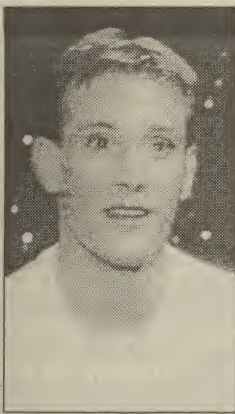
Phyllis Schlafly being interviewed by *In the Life*.

textualizing the performance. We get to know Chablis (who says her legal name is "The") not just from her club appearances, which are really only a minor part of the Chablis mystique, but also by seeing her daily life. "Sometimes I have to go incog-negro," she cackles on her way to the wig store.

Inevitably, the series has had its share of dreary moments. Do

we really need to hear Liza squawking "Or the Day After That" in her fugitive vibrato? And RuPaul commanding an audience of enraptured queens to "Say Love!" achieves a new high in drag fascism.

Still, the highs here far outweigh the lows. Most poignant are the stories of a young gay Roman who kills himself after being denounced by his family, thrown out of school, jailed, and gang-raped; and a visit to the Holocaust Museum. It's easy enough to condemn the chilling treatment of queers under the Nazis, but David Mixner expands the canvas of oppression by recounting his meetings with gays who were liberated from the death camps. The viewer will be as shocked as Mixner was to learn that these men were often rearrested by the Allies for the "crime of homosexuality." That the homophobic strategies of Nazis and Allies sometimes differed more in degree than in kind is the sort of insight that makes *In the Life* special, and surely deserving of this lively tribute to itself. ▼



David Drake in a scene from his 1992 segment on the show.

The fifth anniversary edition of *In the Life* airs Thursday, Aug. 28 at 11 p.m. on KQED-9.

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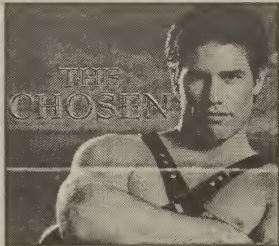
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The good, bad, and beautiful

Sampling SFO's 75th season on disc, part I

by Stephanie von Buchau

All the excitement surrounding the glamorous reopening of the War Memorial Opera House after its 18-month retrofit and refurbishing has diverted attention from the actual business of music-making. Pithy Galore's witticisms aside, the San Francisco Opera's 75th anniversary season offers plenty of exciting singers.

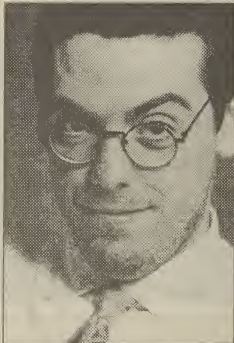
Rather than run through all the preferred recordings of each opera, I've chosen to cite just one important recording and then concentrate on new discs by the many international singers, plus music of peripheral interest. Here's how the first half of the season stacks up:

Tosca, Puccini: (September 6, 9, 12, 14, 18, 21, 24; October 2). The classic *Tosca* recording stars Maria Callas, Tito Gobbi as a brutally sensual Barone Scarpia, and Victor de Sabata conducting (EMI Classics; two discs). A new *Tosca* set (Discover International; two discs) doesn't challenge Callas' hegemony, but offers a gut-wrenching reading by slash-and-burn conductor Alexander Rahbari. This budget-priced set presents Miriam Gauci, a Maltese soprano whose voice is large, volatile, unruly, but thrills to the marrow. Vicente Sardinero's Scarpia is as subtle as a Mack truck in this 1995 performance recorded in Barcelona's Culture Center. Giacomo Aragall sounds tired as Cavaradossi, which is annoying because he's doing far less work than the live-wire Tosca and Scarpia.

Of SFO's *Tosca* soloists, tenor Richard Margison is featured on a solo album of French and Italian operatic arias. I prefer him in French, a language that always refines a singer's style (CBC Records). When a fresh *Tosca* cast arrives in January, the role of Scarpia will be taken over by Sergei Leiferkus, my current operatic crush. I'm dubious about him in Italian repertoire, but his Russian song recitals are to die for. His latest swooner is *Songs of Borodin and Dargomizhsky* (Conifer). Even if his powerful, sexy voice didn't reduce me to a limp noodle, I'd buy the album just for the baritone's blue-eyed gaze on the cover.

Death in Venice, Britten: (September 11, 14, 17, 19, 23, 27). The only recording of Britten's last opera stars his lover, Peter Pears, as Gustav von Aschenbach (London; two discs). Because homosexuality was a crime in England when Britten wrote his major operas, the layers of coding and subtext in them may never be fully plumbed. Most commentators feel that *Death in Venice*, about an aging artist seeking creative renewal from the unattainable beauty of a youth he sees on the beach, is Britten's most openly gay work. I think *Albert Herring*, his 1947 comedy, is nearly as overt, and a lot funnier.

Albert is a mixed-up youth, picked on by his mother and the narrow-minded society in which he lives. Threatened with being



Alfonso Antoniazzi

named "Queen of the May" because no suitable female virgin can be found, Albert rebels, goes on a bender and returns to take charge of his life. One always hopes his drunken revels will include a roll in the hay with some hunky ploughboy.

This cheerful piece delivers a subversive streak of satire on small-town meanness. A bright new performance from the Manhattan School of Music Theater has just arrived (Vox Classics; two discs), with lively conducting by David Gilbert and the charmingly goofy Albert of Christopher Pfund. All of Britten's major operas are about "outsiders," but this one celebrates self-esteem and makes you grin. Nothing about

Death in Venice should make you grin, except some of the multiple role-playing of dashing Italian baritone Alfonso Antoniazzi, who plays Aschenbach's seven nemeses. The production, borrowed from Canadian Opera, is a first on SFO's mainstage.



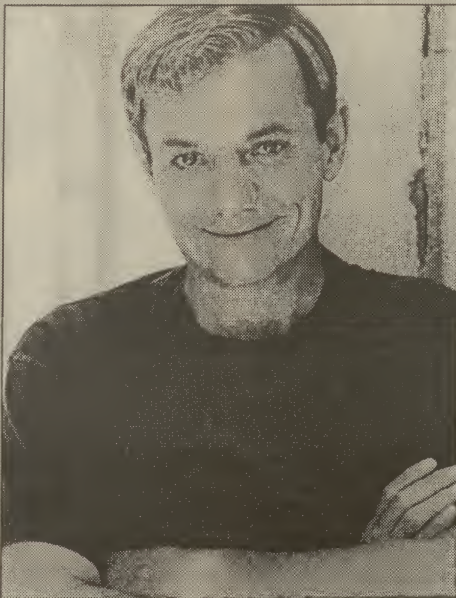
Ruth Ann Swenson to perform Gilda in SFO's *Rigoletto*.

Rigoletto, Verdi: (September 13, 16, 20, 26; October 1, 5, 7; November 26, 30; December 4, 6). The best *Rigoletto* recording is 35 years old. Its conductor (Gianandrea Gavazzeni) and Rigoletto (Ettore Bastianini) are dead; its Gilda (Renata Scotti) is retired, but its Duke (Alfredo Kraus) amazingly sings on (Ricordi; two discs).

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COMEDY

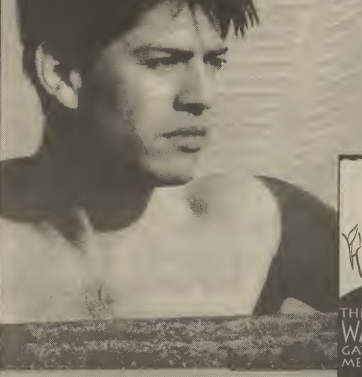
Boogie nights



Comedian Steve Moore charts 40 years of his life in *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, his one-man show running at Josie's September 3-21. Moore's tale takes him from a trailer park in backwoods Virginia to the bathhouses and discos of '70s Hollywood, where, until he was diagnosed HIV-positive ten years ago, he attempted to land a career in the entertainment industry. Hilarious and unvarnished, *Drop Dead Gorgeous* is a raw look at one man's journey through an era few have lived to talk about. As one of the few comics to tackle HIV, Moore takes comedy where it's never gone before. Josie's is at 3583 16th St. For tickets and information, call 861-7933. ▼

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The homecoming

SFO's 75th season marks return to the War Memorial

by Timothy Pfaff

Opening night at the San Francisco Opera — after Halloween the least normal night in the life of this least normal of cities — has worked up a new twist on opera finery. This year, it's the opera house itself that will be singled out for all the "best-dressed" citations. The singing at the big 75th Gala con-

cert on September 5 will have to be supernally beautiful if it hopes to compete with the glories of the opera house itself, which next week finally emerges from its 18-month seismic retrofitting and all-around refurbishing to resume its rightful place as one of San Francisco's most treasured architectural gems.

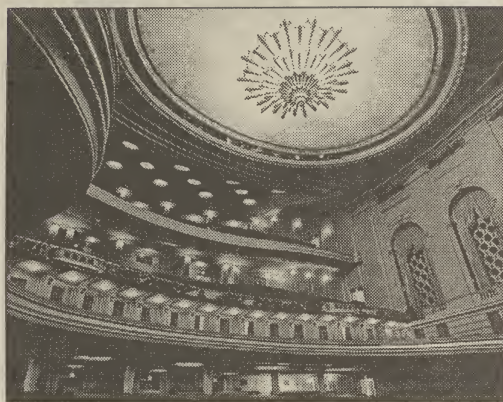
Sad as it was to leave the building after the 1995 *Nutcrackers*, there was no getting around the

fact that the 65-year-old Beaux Arts beauty was beginning to look a little shabby around the edges. While some of the building's unsightliness was simply the result of age, the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake only made a bad thing worse. Wrinkles were not what became this legend most.

Two years and nearly \$85 million later, architect Arthur Brown Jr.'s 1932 structure looks better than ever. Under the guidance of the Committee to Restore the Opera House (CROH), the project — funded by \$49.5 million raised from a bond measure for the seismic upgrade, related structural work, and facility preservation; \$28 million raised privately by CROH for technical and "back-of-the-house" improvements; and \$7 million from the War Memorial Board of Trustees for refurbishment and improvement of patron amenities — has not only returned the War Memorial Opera House to its former grandeur but secured its reputation as one of the great opera houses of the world.

Word has it that many longtime SFO employees burst into tears when they returned to their old home after a year in exile. It's easy to see why. First sight of the building's spiffed-up interior brings a confounding sense of dislocation, immediately followed by a sense of joy and wonder that this familiar space has been realized anew.

Even a first glance at the aesthetic improvements testifies to the high level of care and attention that has gone into this makeover. As is fitting of a building on the National Registry of Historic Places, all of the improvements



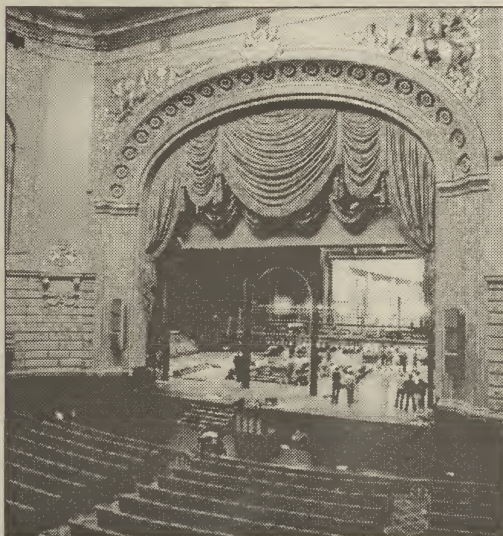
The chandelier's lighting capacity has been enhanced so that the auditorium is bathed in a warm ambient light strong enough to read by.

made to the house were based on the original design. In other words, things had to be done the way they were in 1932. The rich, deep red fabric used to re-upholster the auditorium's wonderfully comfortable new seats was made by the same Italian firm that supplied fabric for the original seats. The proscenium curtain, and those in the lighting bays, was recreated from information obtained from a computer scan of a remnant of the house's original curtain. Painstaking research into the auditorium's interior surface colors revealed that the oval-shaped disc behind the house's spectacular chandelier was once

according to the building's original color scheme.

Throughout the house, no detail has been overlooked. Original tile and wood parquet floor patterns have been replicated in the basement's bar and bathroom areas, and even the added bathroom stalls were created using the original marble, or one nearly identical in color and texture.

While it's the cosmetic enhancements that catch the eye first, the building itself has been strengthened, stabilized, and upgraded in truly remarkable ways. Massive new shearwalls have been built and connective steel plates installed to safeguard the building



The stage of the War Memorial Opera House.

sky blue. After years of neglect (and smoking, before it was banned from the auditorium), it had turned to a dull gray. The beautiful azure hue of the restored oval gives a feeling of pronounced elevation to the entire space. The chandelier itself has been cleaned, and its lighting capacity enhanced so that the house is now bathed in a warm, ambient light strong enough to read by.

The masks of comedy and tragedy, horse-born figures, and rosettes that adorn the proscenium have been completely regilt in gold leaf, and the larger gilt surfaces in the auditorium and box seats have been resurfaced with "Dutch metal," a striking alloy of copper and zinc. Each wall in the house has been carefully painted

in the event of future temblors. The already cavernous basement has been expanded to include new facilities for performers and technical staff, and the stage area has been rebuilt and reinforced. The lighting facilities have been revamped so that they are now competitive with those of any opera company in the world.

Finally, and perhaps best of all, some of the last work undertaken was devoted to correcting the auditorium's notorious acoustical "hot spots," and the preliminary word is that most will be eliminated. So it's quite likely that the opera house we will sit in this season will be a sounder structure with better sound. It couldn't have happened to a nicer building. Let the homecoming celebrations begin. ▼



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BOOKS

Angels of death

by Deborah Peifer

Angel Wings by Nicole Conn;
Simon & Schuster, \$22

I suspect that this reflects some naïveté on my part, but when I read a book, I expect that it's been created by a writer, and a writer is, before anything, someone who reads. It takes reading, after all, to learn about written, as opposed to spoken, language. I put it to you that no reader could come up with so awkward and meaningless a phrase as "throughout the beginning of time..." yet this is the way Nicole Conn chooses to begin her third published novel, *Angel Wings*. Third novel? How can someone so unskilled with language be on her third novel? Conn is, of course, the perpetrator of *Claire of the Moon*, in all of its wretched forms, including novelization. Alas, it appears that's when Conn learned to write, and it is clear

the muscles in his stomach, down the line of hair to his shorts, then stopping, and holding her hand a half inch away from his fully erect penis, aching now for her to touch him. It seemed an eternity until she did, finally fully owning his desire and then slowly, oh so slowly, leading him to her bed, where she taught him not only how to be a man, but to be a man with a woman."

Ugh.

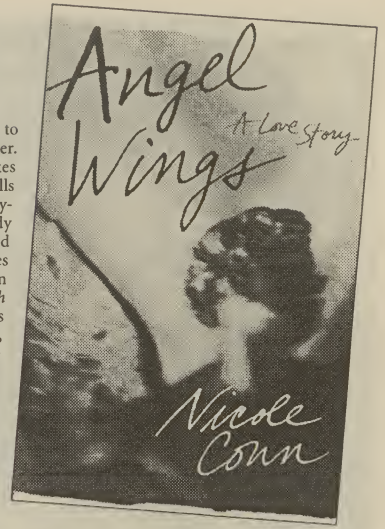
Bad writing is not the only horror awaiting readers of *Angel Wings*. The plot, if it is not inappropriate to use so technical a term for so unworthy an object, concerns a pair of angels who, for reasons entirely unclear to me, need to fiddle with the fate of Clancy and Mathew (yes, Conn spells it with only one t) so that they will end up together. Carlita, a "novitiate angel" (an unpleasing adjectival use of the noun novitiate, which refers more properly to the place where novices hang out) and Angel Gabriella are as-

Clark Gable. Mathew has a dotty aunt who is close enough to being like Auntie Mame that they could have been separated at birth.

Clancy and Mathew almost meet, and then Lisa falls in love with him and then he meets her friend, Clancy, and then both Lisa and Mathew fall in love with Clancy, who falls in love with Lisa first and then Mathew after she gets over her 15 minutes of ersatz lesbianism. Of course none of the characters resembles a human being, or in the case of the angels, a sentient being, so it is impossible to care what happens to any of them.

Angel Wings is a perfect example of what happens when non-readers take over publishing houses. They don't recognize crap

when it's handed to them on a platter. Nicole Conn takes stereotypes and calls them characters, layers on a few trendy bits like angels and child abuse, provides less depth than an episode of *Baywatch* and fewer laughs than a funeral, wraps the whole package in wretched writing, and calls the mess a novel. *Angel Wings* is not a novel. It is, however, an abysmal waste of time and trees. ▼



The writing in this effort is so purple I wonder if Conn might be channeling Jacqueline Susann.

that she has learned nothing since.

The writing in this latest effort is so purple and inept that I wonder if she might possibly be channeling Jacqueline Susann. Consider the following: "when it began to downpour"; "if she didn't buy her a gift she wouldn't have to"; "there was an original copy of *Wuthering Heights*" (which I imagine the character, who is a collector, might call a first edition); "even if only"; "without tampering into"; "trying to drown my heartache through flesh."

These phrases are bad, but the paragraphs are even worse. I will let the following stand for the wretched whole: "Her hand trailed a path of quickening desire as she cupped his strong chin, then let her fingernails trace the tendons down his neck, circling both nipples. A sharp intake of breath, his nipples a new part of his body now, and then her palm gently rubbing in small circular strokes down his chest, kneading

signed to search holographic records of their charges' lives in order to get the little darlings together. Think *It's a Wonderful Life*, only higher tech and lower quality.

Every cliché you can imagine concerning an overactive novice with a wise elder is included in the angel segments. There are, however, more angels than just these two — some are "archangels" and others are "Arch Angels." I presume the latter are angels the others lean on, or, perhaps, angels with serious attitude. And how do the angels know what to do? Why, they consult their "angelosophies," of course.

Clancy's life has been uninterrupted and unadulterated hell, from a wretched childhood with an alcoholic mother who hates her to various other horrid events. After Clancy is raped, she becomes a lesbian for a few pages (there's an original plot device), but not really, because in a past life she was Carole Lombard and Lisa, her momentary lover, was

Opera

◀ page 49

The lovers of SFO's first-cast *Rigoletto*, Ruth Ann Swenson and Richard Leech, have each issued new solo albums. Swenson's is called *I Carry Your Heart* (EMI Classics), after one of four John Duke songs she sings. She also does Bellini, Rossini, and Hahn (French brings out unexpected sensuality in her sunny soprano), plus a sweetly burbling "Shepherd on the Rock" by Schubert, with Charles Neidich on clarinet.

Leech's recital, *From the Heart* (Telarc), is more popular. The generously-voiced tenor belts

arias by Puccini, Verdi, and Cilea, then trottles down for some attractive Neapolitan songs by Tosti, de Curtis, and Leoncavallo. Too bad nobody told Leech you shouldn't address your beloved as if he or she were at a town hall meeting.

Der Fliegende Holländer, Wagner: (September 30; October 4, 8, 12, 17, 21, 25). The classic *Dutchman* recording is also 35 years old: Leonie Rysanek and George London with the torrid Antal Dorati at the helm (London Records; two discs). But if you're in love with SFO's *Dutchman*, James Morris — as a lot of boys seem to be — you'll welcome the latest *Dutchman* from the Metro-

politan Opera, with James Levine steering the ship. Levine has honed his orchestra into one of the great pit bands of all time, but his own heavy hands tend to drag the piece down (Sony Classical; two discs).

Morris is Morris, which means that deep, plush bass-baritone sometimes sounds as if it is on auto-pilot. For torment, you want another singer. Still, his style meshes well with Deborah Voigt's Senta. Here's another huge, creamy sound that puts homogeneity and smoothness ahead of characterization. If it's beautiful singing you crave, this set will not disappoint, though nothing could be further from the hysteria of the Rysanek-London coupling. ▼

Miscellany

Michael Kearns just can't stop writing. He is currently at work on *All American Dad*, a Memoir for My Daughter, in which he details the process involved in adopting his daughter, Tia. Can't find the books you want? New Victoria Publishers has joined forces with four other feminist presses, Astarte Shell, Ash Grove, Third Side, and Knowledge Ideas & Trends to publish a collective catalogue. Contact New Vic (PO Box 27, Norwich VT 05055 or 1-800-326-5297) for a copy. While we might object to lesbian writers going to mainstream presses, one solid advantage for all of us is the mass-market paperback. Katherine Forrest's *Liberty Square* (Berkley Prime Crime), originally published in hard cover at \$21.95, is now available for \$5.99. J.M. Redmann's *The Intersection of Law and Desire* (Norton) is out in paper at \$5.99 (Avon), as well. Phyllis Burke's *Gender Shock* (Anchor), which may be the most important non-fiction work of 1996, can now be purchased for only \$14, a significant reduction from its \$23.95 hard cover price. I know we have to support small, independent presses, but those presses have to recognize our significantly limited discretionary income, and find a way to bring their books to us at a more affordable price. ▼

—Deborah Peifer

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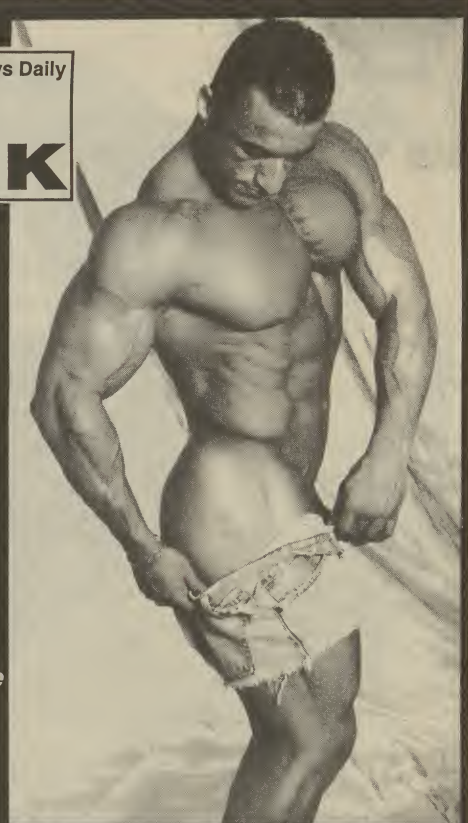
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Mr. Indiana photographed in 1992.

Gary Indiana

◀ Arts cover

they'd turn the camera on her! All of these people were so lacking in any kind of dignity or interest I couldn't be bothered with it. That's Dominick Dunne's territory.

Tell me about the structural relationship between the trial and the lives that are self-destructing around it. What is the interplay between those two elements in the book?

The idea that I had originally was that Frankie [a murdering hustler] was going to come into the lives of these two middle-aged gay guys, Jack and Seth, at an earlier stage and move into Jack's house. Seth was going to move in there earlier as well, and there was going to arise between the two of them this rivalry, not for the sexual attentions of that kid, but actually to play this paternal or parental role with him. That changed a lot as I wrote the book. There were all kinds of things I planned as a closer mirror to the family homicide embedded in the trial. I kept the notion that all these people had been hurt by their parents the same way their parents had been hurt by their parents, and that Frankie in some way represented the next generation of that kind of psychic violence that was turning into real physical violence. The idea was that he would be the next psychopath coming out of this.

I hear you are very interested in Cunanan. Given the daddy-son relationship that he cultivated with his johns, is that one of the things

that interests you about him? You certainly see this sugar-daddy relationship between Frankie and the other gay men in the book.

You notice that the most interactive homicide that Cunanan did was Lee Miglin in Chicago, who was bound with duct tape and stabbed with pruning shears. Lee Miglin probably most precisely fit the profile of the closeted older man that Cunanan had cultivated. This wasn't widely reported, but Cunanan used sacks of cement that were in the garage to crush this guy's chest. He tried to saw his head off with a saw. Apart from Jeffrey Trail, whom he killed with a claw hammer, which is a pretty mean way to go, it was the most extreme of the killings. All this started with Cunanan's father,

who was his role model and who pampered him, treating him like the little prince of the family much more than the other children. When he was still living at home, he had the biggest bedroom in the house, bigger than the parents. And then this adored father figure gets caught with his hand in the till and absconds to the Philippines and leaves them all in a housing project. Let's say Cunanan had a lot of "issues."

Is *Resentment* a gay novel?

To my great satisfaction, that phrase has not come up in any reviews of this book. It hasn't been marketed that way, it hasn't been reviewed that way. In that sense, I would say I have actually accom-

next page ►

LA law

by Roberto Friedman

Resentment, A Comedy by Gary Indiana; Doubleday, \$22.95

Gary Indiana is a writer who does not waste words. His previous novels *Horse Crazy*, *Gone Tomorrow* and *Rent Boy* do not suffer from bloat or padding. So if passages from his new novel *Resentment* seem unusually redundant and full of legalese, that's because they follow in painstaking detail the convoluted proceedings of the sensational LA trial of Carlos and Felix Martinez, a case of parenticide uncannily similar to the famous case of the murderous Menendez brothers.

With characteristic glee, Indiana composes wicked caricatures not only of the principals of that trial and their legal representation, but also of the celebrity journalists who jostle for position in the press seats. Although a lengthy author's note (probably mandated by Doubleday's own legal staff) disavows any resemblance between the book's characters and actual persons, living or dead, some of the invented personages are clearly meant to skewer the pomposity of *Vanity Fair* hack Dominick Dunne, *New Yorker* thumbsucker Hilton Als, and *Interview* editor fatale Ingrid Sischy. And that's just for appetizers.

For the Martinez trial is only the hook on which to hang a moral examination of late '90s Los Angeles society. No one remains unscathed. The novel's main character, Seth, a magazine journalist, is in LA both to cover the trial and to write a celebrity puff-piece profile of movie star Terry Wade. As you might expect, Indiana is devastating on Hollywood culture, but he also turns a gelid eye on poseur literary celebs, ethically-challenged psychiatrists, and a full cast of wannabes and ordinary Joes looking for their chance to cash in on the high-profile tragedy. For example, one of the trial's defendants, Carlos Martinez, pursues a "romance" by phone with an overweight grotesque named Doris Spree. Unbeknownst to Carlos, Doris records their chats for future publication and hopes to ride the attendant publicity all the way to her own line of frozen foods and fitness products. It's the American way.

This contemporary *Day of the Locust* sure does not let gay men off lightly. Seth, his ex-lover Jack, a PWA who drives a cab and gets off online, and radio talk show host J.D. comprise a domestic triumvi-



rate of middle-aged queers pursuing and sometimes bedding various hustlers and psychopaths, but the paid-for sex or longed-for relationships don't seem to nurture them at all, and that's putting it mildly. In the novel's most brutal scene, a random sexual alliance ends in a grisly torture-murder. In some deft plotting, killer, victim, and in fact every minor character in the book link up somehow with the main event, the endlessly grinding murder trial.

In his interview with *Publisher's Weekly*, the author said, "The trial seemed like a perfect thing to me as a kind of toxin that everybody's attention would be focused on, probably at the expense of more important things." A large part of the book focuses on the farce of the courtroom drama, with many densely packed pages of testimony and legal technicalities. Much of this is tough slogging, but there is some comic relief: one of the expert witnesses suffers from acute Tourette's syndrome; reporters break out into fistfights in the press room; and the judge has a secret life as a stalker and blackmailer.

It's clear that not only the Martinez brothers, but the world which created them is on trial. Their defense centers on a history of sexual and psychological abuse from their father. Though the book ends before the jury renders a verdict, there's little doubt what the authorial judgment is in terms of society's larger guilt. (If you don't want to know how it turns out, stop reading now!)

The ending, in which a major earthquake thunders across Southern California and wreaks havoc on the principal characters, is reminiscent of the climactic close of *Short Cuts*, Robert Altman's take on the stories of Raymond Carver. But Carver was a practitioner of the short story, and *Resentment* is very much a full-blooded novel. For a master of such biting satire, Gary Indiana is endowed with the true novelist's attribute, empathy with all the damaged creatures on the scene today. ▼

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INTERVIEW

Gary Indiana

◀ previous page

plished one of my main goals in life, which is not to have my work marginalized and ghettoized.

Have you been marginalized and ghettoized as a gay writer before?

Not really. My work has always existed in this strange zone where there's maybe been a degree of support within the gay community but never a wholehearted embrace of it, and that's because I don't pander to people's delusions. In terms of the mainstream world, it was adverse previously to reading about some of this stuff, but I think that's changed a lot. For example, today it's very chic for straight movie stars to

ary gift is Ed White. He's a terrific writer, even though he has embraced that politic, that position and identity and actually pioneered it, too.

One of my pet peeves about contemporary fiction is that I find it so sensitive. Especially this creative writing school of fiction, the Annie Dillard School [Indiana makes throw up sounds]. The point of it seems to be to demonstrate that the writer responds to the world poetically and invent pretty smiles that show how sensual he or she is.

Well that's just twaddle.

There's a lot of twaddle out there. The whole minimalist phenomenon is dominated by poets and poetesses. I find that this stuff rep-

The trends in publishing are getting worse. The whole phenomenon of having megastores consult with publishers and vet manuscripts is so alarming. But it will backfire in the end. I'm sure it will. I don't really think you can make people stupider. Human beings have this peasant wisdom about them.

play lesbians and gay men. People are allowed now to be interested in gay lives. It doesn't automatically figure that because you've written a book that contains homosexual characters that it's going to be called a gay novel. It would be a gay novel, I suppose, if you were, say, Sarah Schulman and so fixated on your own sexual identity you couldn't really think beyond it.

Who are the other gay novelists you dislike?

David Leavitt is a writer I would consider pretty much worthless. That ghostly guy who died, Feinberg, whatever. I guess he's already forgotten. Gosh, I can't even remember who they are now. The only so-called gay novelist who I think has a great liter-

resents such a misunderstanding of what being a writer is about.

They never write about anything real. The most truly astute poetic writer I can think of is Dennis Cooper, but because of his subject matter he would never get credit for that. They are all writing about crap.

About bird feathers and the disintegration of milk pods.

This sort of thing is all very well in its place, except why is its place so magnified in a country where everything is falling apart and violence is the everyday meal everybody has to eat? Look at these cops who sodomized this Haitian guy with a toilet plunger and then made him eat it. I mean, that's the

page 55 ▶



The boys of *Boyfriends*.

Boyfriends

◀ page 46

recites a litany of Adam's alleged crimes — chiefly his refusal to sleep with Will during the trip — an uncomprehending Adam still can't figure out what he did wrong. "I brought you a cuppa tea this mornin'," he insists.

Paul and Ben's encounters provide the dark counterpoint to such light moments. Paul begins the film by dominating and abusing his partner, but in a series of subtle exchanges, Ben reclaims his

power, forcing his love to adopt the equivalent of an S&M "safe word" that Ben can use when Paul becomes abusive. The word? "Pig." Paul and Ben's relationship reflects the film's theme, lack of communication and understanding. Matt and Owen pick up the theme in Matt's refusal to read Owen's signals of apathy, and Owen's willingness to use Matt to get to one of the other men he's pining for. Will suffers from similar romantic delusions, pursuing Adam in spite of the latter's indifference.

Dinah Washington gives her

spiritual blessing to these confused, endearing characters in the form of a wistful '40s ballad, "I Wish I Knew the Name of the Boy of My Dreams," which plays over a montage of the couples preparing for the trip and again in the closing credits. In *Boyfriends*, as so often in life, the characters do know the names of the boys of their dreams, but not much more. ▼

Boyfriends opens Friday, August 29 at the Castro Theatre.

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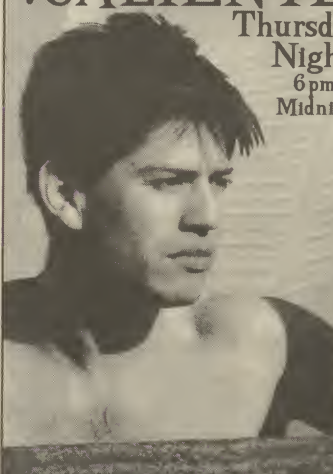
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Self-made man

by Dan Blue

With *Chatwin: Portrait of a Writer* by Susanna Clapp; Knopf, \$23

Bruce Chatwin seemed to skip through life without a care. Handsome, adventurous, "bisexual," he was a master of self-presentation and became an '80s icon, as famous for being famous as for his books. Who better than his editor, the person who knew him as an artist, to bring him down to earth and give us the man behind the works?

In *With Chatwin: Portrait of a Writer*, Susannah Clapp details

he was holding something back. Clapp found Chatwin talented and sweet, and her book is lit with both affection and humor, but she has no illusions about his foibles, which she expertly lays bare.

She explains, for example, that Chatwin was enormously good-looking and knew it. He rarely passed a shop window without checking his reflection, and he glowed with pleasure in his own appearance. "I thought he was interested in being beautiful," an acquaintance said. Because he preened? "No. Because he beamed."

Chatwin also had his wires crossed sexually. He enjoyed numerous gay affairs yet professed

flung as Tibet, Mali, Rajasthan, and Patagonia. Yet he sometimes carried an inordinate amount of luggage ("It was like travelling with Greta Garbo"), and he could stay a very long time visiting rich friends. One weary host remarked, "For a nomad, he spends an awful lot of time in one place."

Chatwin developed his quirks over the course of a lifetime, and Clapp backtracks to give his early history. Born in England in 1940, Chatwin spent his childhood watching the war from the sidelines. A disappointing student, he apprenticed at Sotheby's in London and there developed his extraordinary talents as a connoisseur. Clapp chronicles his marriage, his

The gay theme is played mostly for laughs. Clapp gets great comic mileage from Chatwin's affairs, but seems not to understand the stultifying effects of the closet and how it may have stunted his art.

the creation of Chatwin's six books, three of which she edited herself. She devotes a chapter each to *In Patagonia*, which revolutionized travel narrative, and *On the Black Hill*, his novel about a pair of Welsh twins. She also explains how *The Songlines*, his one best-seller, allowed Chatwin to exorcise theories on nomadism that perplexed him all his life.

Her main struggle, however, is to convey what Bruce Chatwin was like as a person. She presents a man who inspired affection but was difficult to hug, a marathon talker who gave of himself endlessly yet left friends feeling that

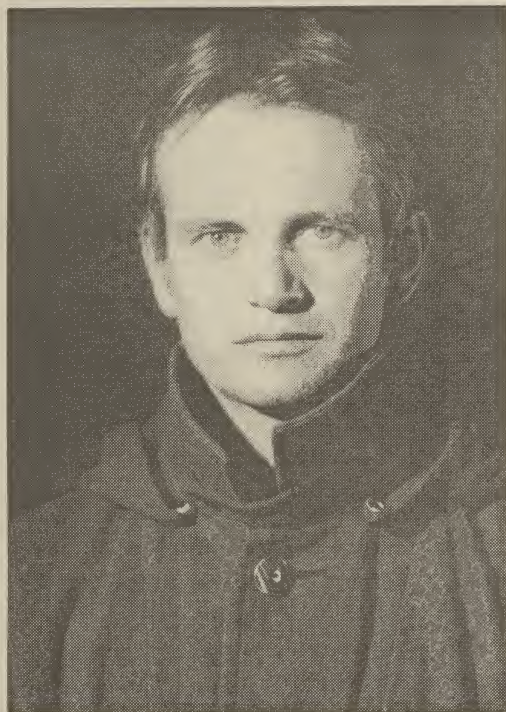
horror at the idea of two men living together. He married at 25, yet (as one friend put it), "the very fact of Bruce having a wife was so improbable that no one quite believed it." This handsome man could tease. When his employers at Sotheby's auction house sent him to snag collectors, Chatwin delighted in making himself bait. "He's amazing, that boy," said an onlooker. "He keeps so many elderly millionaires on heat and yet he never delivers the goods."

His contrariness extended to his travels. Chatwin believed that nomadism was an essential human trait, and he explored sites as far-

abortive education at the University of Edinburgh, and his stint writing impressionistic articles for the London *Sunday Times* magazine. She describes with delicacy and compassion his death from AIDS in 1989 at the age of 48.

As the narrative shifts from Chatwin's personal eccentricities to his career, a mismatch begins to emerge. Clapp seems to treat Chatwin as a golden boy who succeeded because he was clever and cute. Yet he must have been ferociously ambitious, both socially and artistically. How else could he rise from his provincial background in class-conscious England and write six books?

Behind these gaps lurks a larger failure. Clapp revels in Chatwin's surface antics and gets many good stories out of them, but she rarely shows how they illuminate his character. She gives



Bruce Chatwin

us anecdotes but not insights, the personality but not the person. We learn far more about what it was like to be around Chatwin than about Chatwin himself.

Significantly, the gay theme is played mostly for laughs. Clapp gets great comic mileage from Chatwin's affairs, but seems not to understand the stultifying effect of the closet. "Chatwin hardly wrote a confessional in his life," she states, oblivious to the way this may have stunted his art. Nor does she take his gay affairs seriously. At the end of his life, Chatwin stated that he had loved two men. Clapp treats one (Teddy Millington-Drake) as a humorous eccentric, and disposes of the other (dress designer Jasper Con-

ran) in two sentences.

Possibly she is silent out of respect for her friend. Chatwin was notoriously reticent on the topic of sexual orientation and took as his motto, "I don't believe in coming clean." Nonetheless, in a personal memoir we expect personal revelations, and by dwelling on the external, Clapp ultimately diminishes her subject. She tells us of his vanity but not his love. She presents his little games but not the stakes he played for.

In compensation, she makes the exterior man so vivid we can almost feel him breathing beside us. We know exactly what it would have been like to have Chatwin as a houseguest. We just have no idea what made him tick. ▼

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Fatal attraction

by Jerry Metzker

Phaedra's Love, a fierce new update of the Phaedra myth by British playwright Sarah Kane, is not for the squeamish, and Smart Mouth Theatre's production at Intersection for the Arts doesn't miss any opportunity for bloodletting.

The myth itself is familiar. Phaedra, the new wife of King Theseus of Athens, falls tragically in love with her step-son, Hippolytus. When he spurns her advances, she accuses him of raping

her, and commits suicide. It's a sordid little tale, usually told from Phaedra's anguished perspective, but not so in Kane's version.

Her play focuses on the young prince (David Kupchinsky), who has degenerated into a slovenly couch-potato with an irresistible sexual magnetism. Although confessing to dislike sex completely,

he spends a great deal of time having it with anyone who wants him, whether it be his step-sister or a man in the park. The prince's devil-may-care attitude has disastrous results for himself and the entire royal family. The superb cast also features Molly Goode as Phaedra, Mary Catherine Garrison as daughter Strophe, and Eric Carillo as Theseus. ▼



David Kupchinsky and Molly Goode in *Phaedra's Love*.



Curtain Up!

◀ page 44

background. Debra Monk, a fine character actress, is the only sign of life on the recording with her raunchy "Everybody's Girl." Even die-hard Kander and Ebb fans should be warned that this recording is such a non-event its place in the CD rack is not essential.



There's an old Broadway joke that quotes **Voltaire's** dying words: "Please, whatever you do, don't let **Lenny Bernstein** make a musical out of *Candide*." Well, Lenny did, and though the 1956 musical has never had an easy time finding an audience, there has never been a shortage of admiration for the work's shimmering score. The original recording, featuring a sterling performance by **Barbara Cook** as **Cunegonde**, won the work legions of fans, most of whom had never seen it. Director **Hal Prince** finally made the show a hit in 1974, but making it a hit once wasn't enough. Prince had another go last season on Broadway, to near-unanimous pans. The new RCA Victor cast recording is fairly fetching, but is hardly an improvement over the original (though it does include the lyrics Stephen Sondheim added in 1974). Performers **Andrea Martin**, **Harolyn Blackwell**, and **Jason Danieley** sound great, but why bother if it can't significantly improve on the original?

For the record, the best new Broadway cast recording from last season is **Cy Coleman's** *The Life*. ▼

E-mail Curtain Up! with questions, comments, or news regarding theater, Broadway or cabaret at crtnup@aol.com

Gary Indiana

◀ page 53

world we live in. Nothing to do with disintegrating milk pods.

The publishing industry appears to be about to collapse because people are realizing that the book business is not a big money-maker. There have been so many catastrophic failures to win back those enormous advances paid to writers. I look forward to a time when the book industry becomes a cottage industry again.

A. Enzensberger wrote somewhere that literature was actually returning to what it was supposed to be, a cult. Works of literature were never designed for a mass market, for mass consumption. Television and everything else that is supposed to be a great threat to literature will actually in the end return literature to what it was supposed to be.

The mass market for literature is a diabolical invention because essentially what happened is that editors went after that big fish and neglected the coterie of readers who are the very backbone of

American culture. They went after this imaginary mass reader and are now putting all of their energies into creating and designing books for that market, cook books and meditations by vapid housewives on the joys of daily living. I hope that at some point the big fish turns out to be dead in the water.

I think it will happen, but it's not going to happen right away. It will take a long time for things to change. The trends in publishing are getting worse. The whole phenomenon of having megastores consult with publishers and vet manuscripts is so alarming. But it will backfire in the end. I'm sure it will. I don't really think you can make people stupider. Human beings have this peasant wisdom about them. Things that become too much of a contradiction become insupportable to most people. And then they change, they change either through a revolution or through forces in society that change them in a less dramatic way. ▼

Daniel Harris is the author of *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture*, from Hyperion Books.

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



#2 Pavilion De Vendome, Aix-en-Provence, France (detail).

Back to the garden

Sometimes you just have to get out of the concrete jungle, and a park or city garden is the only patch of greenery around. The dog days of summer may be one of those times. If no oasis is nearby, you can always seek refuge in the representation of those spaces in art. And until the end of the month, the Mulligan-Shanoski gallery is showing a selection of photographs by Bay Area artist Alan Blaustein of parks, benches and other public niches in France. The title of the show is *Le Jardin*.

"All that is bizarre in man, and that is vagabond in him, and wild, could undoubtedly be contained in these two syllables: garden." — Aragon, *Le Paysan de Paris*

The spectator is drawn into these photographs of stately places as if he could enter them, sit down, stay a while. A bench in St. Remy en Provence beckons. A staircase cascades down a slope in Cape Jean Ferrat, leading to a small, secret place.

"There were trees there, a rare thing in our country, and many birds, which love trees and could not have lives elsewhere. There was order and disorder, sandy allées following the steps, leading to gates, and flattering a certain taste I have always had for places where one strolls with a certain pomp." — Fromentin, *Dominique*

"Oh sweet glances, oh eyes full of beauty/Small gardens, full of amorous flowers/Where the arrows of love are dangerous" — Louise Labé, *Sonnets*

[Quotations are from *Reading the French Garden* by Denise Le Dantec and Jean-Pierre Le Dantec (MIT Press).] ▼

"Alan Blaustein, *Le Jardin, Albumen Prints*" remains on view through August 31 at Mulligan-Shanoski, 747 Post St. Call 771-0663 for information.



Hand (1990), part of Gábor Kerekes' solo exhibition of photographs at Robert Koch Gallery. See Tuesday.

Erg

Billy Budd

Venture Theatre presents adaptation of Melville's classic nautical tale, aboard C.A. Thayer. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 9/7. \$25. SF Maritime Nat'l Hist. Park, Hyde St. Pier. 929-0202 x58.

Co-ed Prison Sluts

Pipedream Productions' musical comedy returns. Fri. & Sat. at 11pm thru summer. \$15. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

The Curse of Funston Munley

Patrick Longo's play. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm thru 8/31. \$12. Next Stage Theatre, 1668 Bush. 339-8460.

Cyberqueer

Tom Jacobson's sexy cyberspace adventure that takes audience into 3-D chat room. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 8/31. Call for price. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Dear Diva

Gay advice columnist performs. Fri. thru 8/29. \$5. 8pm. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

Electricity...

"Is Your Friend," exhibition of electromechanical tinkering and kinetic sculpture curated by Michael Brown. Reception tonight, 6pm; thru 9/27. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. 863-2141.

God's Will...

"And our free will to choose," an interfaith spiritual discussion, free. 6:30pm. 776 Haight. 621-3317.

Hung Like a Fly

Comic Marga Gomez in her new show. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm, Fri. & Sat. also at 10pm, thru 8/31. \$12-14. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

In Search of the Greatest...

"American Hot Dog" Paul Laudenslager and J.J. White comedy that promises to launch "an all-out assault on bad theatre." \$10. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 8/30. Bindlestiff Studio, 185 6th St. 974-1167.

Nude Men

Vance Martin's *Nude Men*, a show of recently uncovered male nudes by photographer George Platt Lynes. Thru 8/30. Stephen Wirtz Gallery, 49 Geary. 433-6879.

Opera Quiz

Kenn Harris fires questions from his book, *The Ultimate Opera Quiz Book*, free. 6pm. Borders, 400 Post. 399-1633.

Phaedra's Love

Smart Mouth Theatre presents Sarah Kane's play. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm thru 9/7. \$7-15. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-3311.

Psycho Beach Party

Kitschy comedy based on Gidget movies and psycho melodrama. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm thru 8/30. \$15. Studio at Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Skin Deep

Third annual all-media exhibit of selected nudes, Tues.-Sat. thru 8/31. Bridge Gallery, 689 Bryant. 673-3080.

SwitchStance

Multimedia celebration of SF surfing & skateboarding, thru

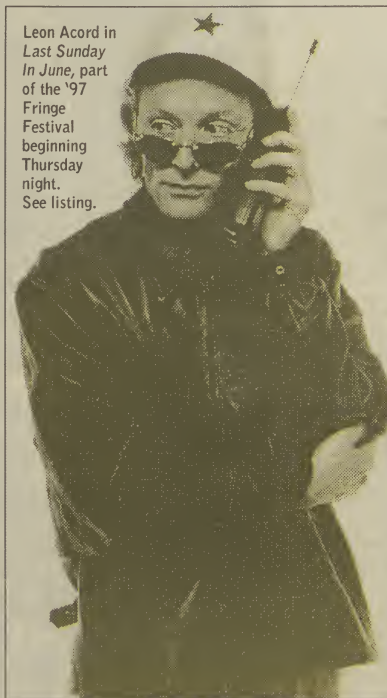
8/30. SF Art Commission Gallery, 401 Van Ness. 554-6080.

Tea and Sympathy

All-dyke cast in Robert Anderson's play set in New England boys school, directed by Mimi McGurl. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 8/30. \$8-12. Luna Sea Women's Perf. Proj., 2940 16th St., #216C. 863-2989.

Telling Stories

Artist Michael Johnstone's exhibition, thru 8/31. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes.



Leon Acord in *Last Sunday In June*, part of the '97 Fringe Festival beginning Thursday night. See listing.

864-7654.

Word for Word

4th anniversary festival: performances from short stories by Virginia Woolf, Julia Alvarez. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 8/31. \$15. Magic Theatre, Bldg. B, Fort Mason. 441-8822.

Sat

A La Carte, A La Park

Outdoor food, beer and wine fest. Sat.-Mon., 11am-6pm thru 9/1. \$8.50. Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park. (510) 762-2277.

As You Like It

African American Shakespeare Company performs Shakespeare's romantic comedy, free. Sat. & Sun. at 5pm thru 8/31. Verba Buena Gardens, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

The Brown Party

Latino Circuit Party benefits Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida. Barbara Tucker, Foxsee Brown, go-go boys entertain. \$15. 9pm-4am. Club Papi, Trocadero, 520 4th St. (408) 793-0113.

High Society Party

Baby Judy's blueblood dance party, DJs Deena Davenport, Alvin A Go-Go. \$3. Stud, 9th & Harrison.

In the Mind's Eye:

"Dutch Paintings from Utrecht in the Golden Age" 17th-century art exhibit. Thru 11/30. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park. 863-3330.

India:

"A Celebration!" 5 exhibitions in honor of 50th yr. of Indian independence. Thru 9/28. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Kielbasa

Matthew Worszylow's *Kielbasa, Queen of Poland 2: The Musical*. Sat. thru 8/30. 8:30pm. \$5. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-1441.

Killing Time

SF Mime Troupe's free summer show. 2pm. Sat. & Sun. 8/30-31 at Sunken Meadow, Golden Gate Park; Mon. 9/1 at Dolores Park. 646-0639.

Kimo's 20th Anniversary

Tropical theme, Kimo performs. \$2. Buffet 9pm, show

10pm. Donation for AIDS Mem'l Grove. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Linkhart Films

Noh Penny Opera presents Carl 'Trina' Linkhart's B films *Weekend Zombie Nurses* and *Rat Girl Rhonda*, free. 8pm. 601 Dolores. 642-4277.

Ralph Nader Is Missing

Charlie Varon's play, extended thru 9/28. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm. \$17-22. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

Strange Cargo

Wayne Banks' photography exhibition at A Different Light Bookstore, thru 8/31. 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Sun

Agatha:

"The Faithful Servant," Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble performs SF premiere of Schubert opera. \$5-10. 4pm. Community Music Ctr., 544 Capp. 647-6015.

Club Red

Dance club for women throws benefit for Internat'l Feminist Brigade to Cuba. \$5. 9pm. Blondie's, 540 Valencia. 864-1278.

MACT Potluck

Men Of All Colors Together Sunday brunch potluck; free, bring enough for 5. 1pm. Lone Star Saloon, 1354 Harrison. 675-0201.

Sidewalk Sale

Donated samples from Internat'l Gift Fair, benefits AIDS services. 11am-7pm. Under One Roof, 2362 Market. 252-9430.

Until There's a Cure Day

Castro Lions fundraiser for community AIDS groups: G-ants vs. Anaheim Angels. \$15. 1:05pm. Tickets thru Lions: 90-LIONS.

Mon

David King

Black and white photography exhibit, "Solo: A View of the American West," thru 9/1. Sweet Inspiration, 2239 Market. 621-8664.

Gay Comedian Open Mic

Up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. MC Marilyn Pittman. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Louise Brooks

"Portraits and Memorabilia" of 1920s actress on display, thru 9/28. What's For Dessert, 1497 Church. 695-9477.

Raised by Wolves:

"Photographs and Documents of Runaways by Jim Goldberg" exhibit, thru 9/21. SF-MOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Shiro Kuramata

Exhibition of works by Japanese designer, thru 12/12. SF-MOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Tues

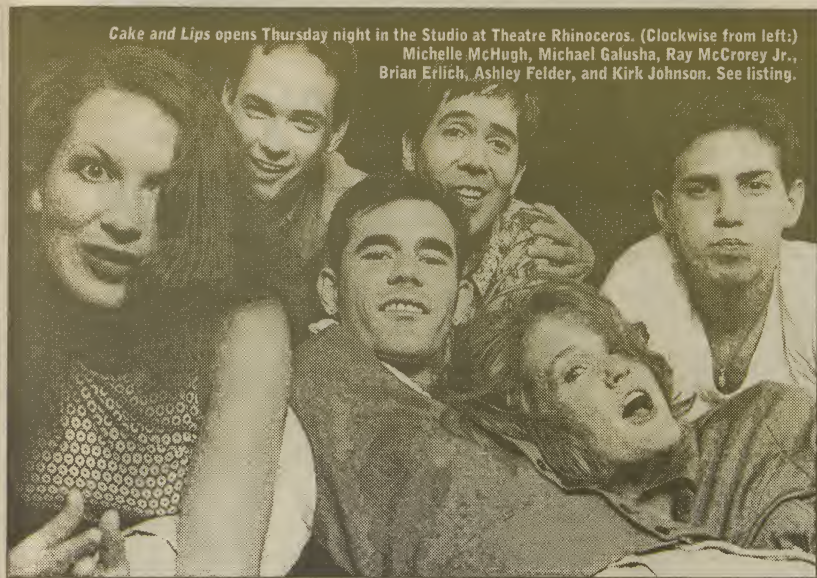
Aguilas

Self-empowerment group for gay and bisexual Latino men has membership mtg. 6pm. Dolores St. Community Ctr., 938 Valencia.

Bay Area Now

Summer multidisciplinary arts fest & exhibition,

Cake and Lips opens Thursday night in the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros. (Clockwise from left:) Michelle McHugh, Michael Galusha, Ray McCrorey Jr., Brian Erlich, Ashley Felder, and Kirk Johnson. See listing.



37 local artists, thru 9/7. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission, thru Sept. 7. 978-ARTS.

Gábor Kerekes
Solo exhibition of Hungarian photographer's works. Also: Herb Greene's photos of "San Francisco Rock 1960s," thru 9/6. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

My Cathedral
Site-specific installation by L.A. artist Alex Donis, thru 9/27. Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

Sculpture Walk
More than 40 life-size sculptures by California artists installed on the Esplanade, thru 9/18. Yerba Buena Gardens, Mission betw. 3rd & 4th Sts. 543-0656.

Wed

Bridget Schwartz
Borderline physical humor, with dead-pan Jean Culver opening. Wed.-Sun. at 10pm thru 9/7. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Bruno Fazzolari
& Paul Sietsema, art exhibit thru 9/12. ESP, 305 Valencia. 252-8191.

Don't Make It Necessary...

"For Us To Force You," new paintings by Timothy B. Buckwalter, thru 9/27. Braunstein/Quay Gallery, 250 Sutter. 392-5532.

Drop Dead Gorgeous

Gay comic Steve Moore's one-man show. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm thru 9/21. \$12. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Fantastic Creatures:

"Demons, Dragons, Mermaids, and Monsters from the Permanent Collection," thru 3/29. \$3. Mexican Museum, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-0404.

Great Moments...

"At the Opera House," exhibit of highlights in history of War Mem'l Opera House, thru 9/7, free. SF Perf. Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

SF Games

Weekly board and card game group, free. 7:30pm. Muddy's Coffeehouse, 1304 Valencia. 679-3678.

Single Room Occupancy

Alli Sant and Susan Schwartzberg's installation, with Neil Grimmer's "The Aesthetics of Obsolescence," thru 9/6. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Town Mtg.

Project Inform's Introduction to HIV Treatment Options, free, donations encouraged. 6:30pm. 1965 Market, Suite 220. 558-8669.

12 Artists

"From Visual Aid" exhibit, thru 9/13. McKesson Plaza Bldg., 1 Post. 777-8242.

Who's On First?

"The Riddle of Collaboration" panel, part of September Critical, with Keith Hennessy, Joan Holden, Jon Jang, more. Free. 8pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-2787.

Thur

Cake and Lips

Ray McCrorey Jr.'s play about sex, drugs, and drag queen denial. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, 9/14, 21, 28 at 7:30pm thru 9/28. \$15. Studio at Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Fanny

42nd Street Moon presents concert version of 1954 musical. Thurs.-Fri. at 8pm, Sat. at 6pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 9/21. \$18.50. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Fringe Festival

44th Annual SF Fringe Fest:

50 theatre companies in 260 performances, including *Cervix With a Smile and Titsy the Clown*. Thru 9/14, call hotline for times and venues. 673-3847.

Gardens Gallery Walk

Over 30 galleries and museums around Yerba Buena Gardens open free, 2-9pm (SFMOMA free after 6pm).

Last Sunday In June

Leon Acord's solo show, a light-hearted look at the Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade, part of SF Fringe Fest. Tonight at 10pm; also 9/6, 12, 13, call for times. \$8. Shelton Theatre, 533 Sutter. 673-3847.

Queer Youth Writing Workshop

Trebora Healey teaches drop-in erotic writing class through LYRIC, free. Thurs. thru 9/18 at 6:30pm. Castro Country Club, 4058 18th St. 703-6150.

Really Big Shows

Curator John Weber gives lecture on Documenta, Venice, Munster and Berlin. \$9. 7pm. Phyllis Wattis Theatre, SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4102.

Sacred Geometry

Julie Caffey's performance: a ritual junkie's journey for meaning, part of SF Fringe Fest. Tonight at 10pm; also 9/6, 7, 11, 12, 14, call for times. \$8. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. (510) 864-7370.

Shear Madness

Whodunit set in unisex hair-styling salon. Tues.-Sun., call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$28-32. Mason Street Theatre, 430 Mason. 982-5463.

Transgendered Portrait

Deborah Hammond's series: portraits of drag kings, drag queens, and transsexuals; with Todd Hido's *House Hunting*. Reception tonight, 5:30pm. Thru 10/4. SF Camerawork, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

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Marga and the boys

by Mister Marcus

It's confirmed! Everyone's favorite comedienne, Marga Gomez, will be the headliner at the SF Leather Daddy's Boy contest this coming Sunday, Aug. 31, at the \$8 beer bust on the patio of the SF-Eagle. (Marga's current show, *Hung Like a Fly*, on the boards at Josie's Cabaret, has been extended to Saturday, Sept. 6, and if you haven't seen it yet, you'd better hurry!) Besides the \$200 cash non-returnable raffle, dinners and other valuable items will be raffled off at the contest. The only auction item is a full hood valued at \$400. Mr. S Leathers has gone beyond generosity by donating this item in addition to a stud-ded patch and vest for the Daddy's Boy winner. The action begins at 1500, with LDXV Patrick Batt commencing with Donna Shrout and food by the Cal Eagles MC. It should be a great afternoon. To outgoing LDB Joey Faria, thanks for a very fun year with the title. You did yourself and the community, proud - damn proud!

On Saturday night, Aug. 30, four men will vie for the Mr. Northern California Drummer title at the SF-Eagle at 2000. The \$10 fee permits you to witness Mr. Sacramento Drummer Mike Butler, Mr. Alameda County Drummer "Sarge" Park, Mr. SF Drummer John Brown and Mr. San Jose Drummer Dan Pickeral compete for the title. The Northern California Drummer Boy contest will be staged at Greg's Ballroom in San Jose on Saturday, Sept. 6. I'll give you the details on this one as soon as they're given to me.

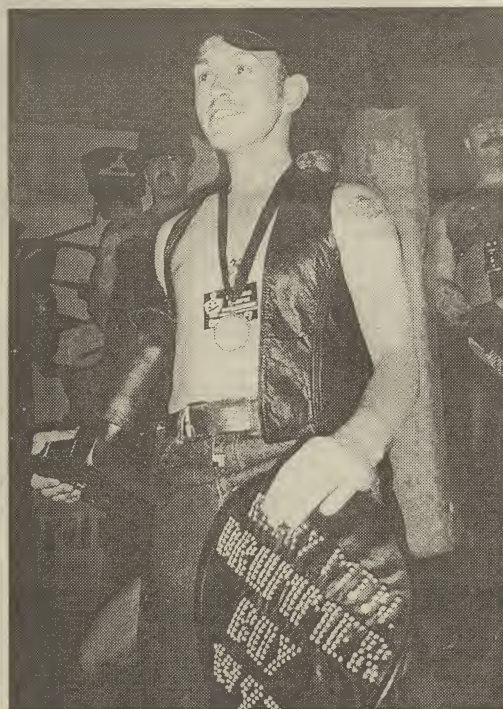
Several out-of-town leather VIPs are already in town to see the competition, including Mr. Southern California Drummer Robert Conway, Mr. Chicago Cell Block Leather Brian-Mark Conover and IML's official photographer, Ron Volanti. The judges are in place, the entertainment is set, and the winner will compete for the international title in September. It should be a great weekend for San Francisco's leather tribe, and I hope to see you all out there supporting your favorite contestants.

Even as you read this, hundreds of dedicated volunteers are already working on the world's biggest leather gathering, San Francisco Leather Pride Week '97.

It kicks off with the annual Leather Pride Walk on Sunday, Sept. 21, at 1400 from Daddy's Bar in the Castro to the SF-Eagle in the SoMa. There will be a pit stop at the "under new management"



Marga Gomez headlines at the SF Leather Daddy's Boy contest at the Eagle on Sunday, Aug. 31.



Davie Martin is the Rocky Mountain Drummer Boy from Denver who competes for the title next month.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, Aug. 28

 Dating game at Daddy's, starting around 2000.
 Win a date with a daddy or a boy. Prizes galore.

Weekend Aug. 29-31

Leather Decadence and Bear Decadence in New Orleans.

In Denver, choosing Mr. Leather Colorado XVII on Saturday during the Continental Divide Leather Pride celebration all weekend.

Saturday, Aug. 30

Mr. Northern California Drummer contest at the Eagle - \$10 tix, leather strutting, fantasies, speeches. Be there!

Sunday, Aug. 31

An \$8 beer bust and the SF Leather Daddy's Boy contest, with food, raffles, \$400 full hood auction. Win \$200 cash (and keep it!). Marga Gomez will keep you laughing while LDXV Patrick Batt and

Donna Shrout emcee. Don't miss this one!

Weekend, Sept. 4-7

Hellfire's "Inferno '97" Section A. Section B is Sept. 7-10. Questions? Call Mel Austin at (773) 665-2050 between 1300 and 2200 CDT only! Also, Great Plains Mr. Drummer contest by the Gateway MC in St. Louis. No details at my deadline.

Wednesday, Sept. 3

Leathermen's Discussion Group meets at 1930 on the topic: "Boots." Nancy Sinatra will not be in attendance. Call Tim at 626-3747 for location and information.

Thursday, Sept. 4

Free, anonymous HIV testing upstairs at 933 Harrison, 2030 to 2230, with counseling.

Also, Big Basket contest at The Edge around 2100.

LEATHER SCENE

Powerhouse Bar (1347 Folsom), which has generously underwritten the cost of the commemorative pin you will get if you participate. And if you plan to, you should be gathering your pledges from friends, co-workers and lovers. Pledge sheets are available now at Daddy's. If you want one mailed to you or need more info, call Art Tomaszewski at 863-2758.

Hundreds of public and private parties are planned during SF Leather Pride Week '97. The leather daddies are having an art auction at the Eagle on Thursday, Sept. 25; the Mr. Drummer basket auction (to benefit the travel fund for the eventual winner) is the same night at the Powerhouse.

One of the main events, the Fetish & Fantasy Ball, is on Friday, Sept. 26, at Club Townsend. Audrey Joseph and Daddy Irwin Kane are producing this year's extravaganza. Tickets are \$12 advance/\$15 door. Call 1-888-TIX-ONLY to charge to your Visa, MC or AmEx (same number for the International Mr. Drummer contest on Saturday, Sept. 27).

The Northern California Leather Association for the Deaf is staging the annual Drummer Last Supper (ostensibly a roast of Mr. Drummer Kyle Brandon and Drummer Boy Mike DeNisco) at the Eagle on Friday, Sept. 26, with a beer bust and food (\$8). The new IMsL Genelle Moore will co-emcee the roast with the new International Mr. Deaf Leather Patrick Richardson, so it should be fun. For more info, call TTY 415/431-5384 or e-mail: dbs@queernet.org.

The biggie (and of course, the climax) is the 14th Annual Folsom Street Fair on Sunday, Sept. 28, by SMMILE. Hundreds of volunteers are already working to make it a success, and of course, they could always use more hands!

Booths with a myriad of merchandise/crafts will be plentiful, and food and drink booths will also be much in evidence. There will be a lot of leather-oriented "families," but for those who aren't, your presence (and appearance) should be within the confines of decency in order to avoid arrests and/or detention.

Homo on the range

Almost \$9,500 was raised at Philip Turner's Leather Extravaganza last Friday, Aug. 22. There were several \$100 benefactor tickets sold for the sumptuous buffet, and almost 200 more people paid the \$40 fee. The 1998 Bare Chest Calendar men served as scantily clad hosts, bartenders and doormen. Donna Sachet, Brian Benamanti and Linda Imperial kept the crowd entertained, and even Seattle's Leather Boy Steve Campbell showed up! There was a silent auction for several leather items, and everyone had a great time.

On Sunday afternoon, Gary Virginia staged a benefit for AIDS Benefits Counselors. The weather couldn't have been better for the "Boot Camp" party at the SF-Eagle "barracks," with a wartime drag show, raffles, uniforms and "Driller" (International Mr. Boot Black) polishing the hooves.

Since our current Mr. SF Leather is nowhere to be seen these days, Gary Virginia (Mr. SFL '96) continues his fundraising - and we're glad for that! By the way, just where is Mr. Powers? Inquiring minds asked me to ask!

And while we're asking, the entire club community of the Metro-D.C. area is wondering if those people who were going to have a barbecue in the posh suburb of McLean, Va., will be subjected to "cruel and unusual" punishment for being busted by the local police for an unspecified and quite possibly unlawful incident? ▼



Mr. Southeast Drummer J. Martin Ellis (center standing) and Drummer Boy Von Sumerall (kneeling) with IM Drummer Kyle Brandon (left) and sponsor Rico Ware.



Mr. Florida Drummer Jeffrey Adler and Florida Drummer Boy Steven Michael (kneeling) are due here for the finals in September.

a taste of leather

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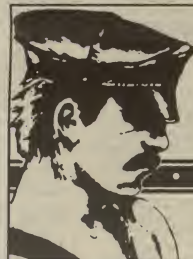
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PARTING GLANCES

3/30 Spaghetteria on Kearny
You: tall, light hair & beard, yellow shirt waiting for take out lunch. Me: S&P hair, glasses, tie. Let's get together. ☎ 7501.

Beautiful David-Dore St. Fair
And Eagle, You: white handiebar mustache, blk baseball cap & all leather. Me: also David, drk hair & goatee, very handsome & big smile 4U. Coffee or...? ☎ 7502.

Eric Sat 8/2 Powerhouse Patio
We played with my other boy, Eric. I left to take him home & came back for you. What happened? You know you want it. Mike. ☎ 7503.

Doug S.
Sorry I missed your show on the 3rd, but I'll definitely be there on the 17th. Please call this secret admirer if not with romantic intent. I have a song for you too. ☎ 7504.

Mr. 70 I'm Not
But I am nuts about you, Scott. Sleep with me—it will be fun. Call, let's talk about it. Norman. ☎ 7505.

Brown Hanky Left Pckt Costco 8/1/97, Fr. 11:15am food section
You: beard, plaid shirt and w/mom? Me: 6'1", 185#, hot for you. We exchanged knowing glances. please contact. ☎ 7506.

2 Ads in Fetishes 7/31 Can't Call Nylon/spandex at 7258. Really into some as you call! Also nasty, hairy, top at 7260. I'm your nasty boy. Let's explore. I'm 32 and very nasty call. ☎ 7507.

Valley of the Dolls—Castro Thr.
You: Latino with light green knit shirt. Me: Italian, tight white T-shirt, muscular, 5'6", goatee. We talked about the movie in the bathroom line, would love to talk again. ☎ 7508.

Shall We Dance?
Patrick, the bus stop on Geary Aug. 2. Both enjoyed the film at the Bridge. Too shy to ask my questions. Would love to meet you again. ☎ 7509.

Bean-There Coffee House 7/19
You sitting working on your laptop. I introduced myself, Vince. I asked your name, Will. Let's have coffee & a real conversation this time. Call. ☎ 7601.

Jeff at Target 8/6 Wed.
We met at Target, had lunch at Boston Market. I'd like to do lunch again. Rich. ☎ 7605.

Brian-Rainbow Cattle Co. 8/9
Tall, dark and handsome. You took my breath away. Sorry we didn't connect at River business. Would still like to. Call me. We're missing out on fun. ☎ 7602.

Cockfeeder at the Powerhouse
On Wednesday night, August 6, around 10 to midnight. You fed me dick, first in the backroom, then in the bathroom. Incredible dick. Incredible cock feeding talent (it's rare.). ☎ 7603.

Virgin Cocktail Party Aug. 8th
You: "Lucille Ball," ex-Pac Bell, writing novel, computer whiz. Me: "Cybill Shepherd," ex-Pac Bell, VNH. I really enjoyed talking with you—would love to talk more. Give me a call? Thanks. ☎ 7604.

Peet's Coffee 8/5 12 Noon
You: green shirt talking with friend on bench. Me: in white Jeep leaving with friend. We smiled at I pulled away. Call me. ☎ 7606.

Pittsburgh BART 7/29 7:40 AM
You: dark hair, dark eyes, with walkman and carrying orange handbag. Me: brown hair, blue eyes wearing red & blue jacket. The week before I spied you reading Petronius, you're just as I'd imagined Gito would be. ☎ 7607.

8/5 Muni "L" Embark to Castro
You: blk T-shirt, tan pants, goatee w/blk brief case. Me: blk suit, brown hair, brn brief case, glasses. Wanted to ask you if I could buy you a drink, too shy—you look like my dream guy—Please call. ☎ 7608.

Patrick D.
See through blue shirt. We met, we talked. Maybe more? I want to know more about you and Arizona. Call Brad. ☎ 7609.

8/5 UA 2047 SFO-LAX Seat 6F
I was sitting in 6D admiring your incredible body—Would love to work you over with a full body massage. ☎ 7610.

Buena Vista West, 8/11 11AM
You, very handsome, in shorts, putting blk in green car. I went by on blue bike. You turned on Upper Terrace and waved. I reacted too slowly. Please call. ☎ 7611.

"Beautiful Necktie!" You said.
Wed. 8/13. You boarded Muni at Church station; I got off at Castro in green suit. Thanks for the compliment. how about we meet over coffee? Call. ☎ 7612.

Joshua at The Eagle
We talked and talked and took off our shirts. Please call and let's have dinner. ☎ 7706.

Hot Motorcycle Leather Buddy
Nothing compares to you. You know too. Boo! A cute mess, wanted, proud, here to stay and in trouble now. Your deserved choice. Anything, even of the Imp. Make me. ☎ 7613.

Club Universe, Saturday 8/9
John, cute w/blond military cut, blue eyes. I complimented you on white shirt at bar. Did I scare you away? Liked what you saw? Call me! ☎ 7611.

Walgreens, Thurs., 8/14
Morning, you bought cigs in green box, had brown back pack, great smile and butt. Me: green sweat shirt & goatee, you looked back. Call please. ☎ 7701.

Wed. Aug. 13 The Edge
You: cute blonde bartender. Me: cute, young blonde bartender. Let's meet on Thurs. I'll be wearing just a smile. How about you? ☎ 7702.

Steven @ Steamworks 8/8
Can't seem to forget the way you smelled, the way you touched me. You: short hair, sun tattoo on left shoulder blade, white tank top, blue shirt. Me: Randy, Asian, glasses. Please call. ☎ 7703.

Waterboys Party Aug. 15th
Me: the doorman, salt & pepper balding, blue eyes. You: lean, firm, hairy chest, salt & pepper crew cut. We laughed about the guy who felt that 35 was old. Please call. ☎ 7704.

Johnny in Wheelchair from NY.
Met at "Hole in the Wall." You said staying with brother. We went to Oakland. Would've taken you out for you 27th birthday but haven't found you since. Whaddaya say? ☎ 7705.

Kevin from Steamworks Fri. 8/15
We had a great time. Would you like to get together again? Call Walter and Patrick from the South Bay. ☎ 7707.

Blk Haired & Bearded Jogger
Sunday morning August 17, you were jogging on upper Market. Me: tall, salt/pepper beard near small blk car. I waved and honked as I drove by. Let's connect. ☎ 7708.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

HIV+ Man ISO HIV+ Companion
It's just easier being with someone else who's positive. Attractive Hawaiian-mixed guy, 30, stocky, hairy, 5'8", bottom looking for someone with heart who's attractive, masculine. 25-40 and a top. ☎ 7515.

East Bay Spiritual Leather
HIV, 37, GWM, 5'5", 155, ISO possible LTR with 30-43, hairy male into FF, WS and more. Commitment, fun, sex, love, romance. ☎ 7510.

Attractive Latino
Attractive Latino, 32, 5'7", 150#, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, looking for GWM between 25-38 yr. for friendship or more. Like biking, hiking, going out to dinner. Give me a call. ☎ 7511.

Aggressive Asian Men
This GWM, 41, loves to suck Asian men for a long time and to be fucked too. I can go for hours with you. Yours anytime. Call me. ☎ 7512.

Let's Give it a Try
GWM, 44, 175#, interested in mtg GAM/Lat, 40-50, also slightly overweight, for friendship, safe sex and more. Let's take it one day at a time. ☎ 7513.

GWM ISO Possibility
39, 190#, 5'9", brn, grn, mustache/beard, intelligent, stable. Seeking similar gentle male, capable of commitment, 30-45 years, affectionate, furry. ND/NS, moderate alcohol okay. Want relationship, not sex-buddy. ☎ 7514.

Cocksucker Wanted
Masculine, muscular, big, 50, seeks pal to play with and suck on his dick every night. During TV. Any race. ☎ 7516.

Young GWM for Built GBM/GLM
I'm 24, 5'11", 155, gd/kg, prof w/edge, bl/bl. You: 25-40, hung, muscular, versatile, no STD, upbeat, sweet talker w/style, devotion, comfortable life. All good—LTR. ☎ 7517

Gay??? Gray???
Seeking 50+ man, happy, handsome, 5'9"/over (hair color unimportant). Me: sexually/intellectually versatile, 39, olive skin, shaved head, goatee. Frankophile. Interests Opera, antiques, cooking, Cadillacs (old), experiences (new). ☎ 7518

Expert Cocksucker
Senior GWM, 5'7", 130#, begs to worship mask, verbal topman, over 40, wgt proportion. Cauc or Asian. ☎ 7519.

Athletic Guy
Masculine, professional, witty, Asian, 49, 5'9", 150, physically active and fit, seeks clean-shaven, lean or muscular Wm into workouts, hiking, camping, sports, dancing, ethnic food, travel and fun times. ☎ 7614.

Preppy GWM Frat Boy
Bl/bl, 39, mid Penin, seeks youthful preppy frat boy for fun or relationship. ☎ 7626.

Looking for Mr. Right
27 yo, Mediterranean boy, 6', 180#, HIV-, not into games, handsome-muscled bottom seeking attr. Latin or GWM, 25-35, HIV-, masc. top, for LTR. Serious only. ☎ 7615.

Gay Hobbit Kin
Seeks middle earth fantasy! Strider, handsome 31, desires trim, wise wizard as magical lover to conjure fun outdoor rituals, captivating tomes, spellbinding conversation, mind-reading & body divination. Zap, reply ASAP! ☎ 7616.

Attractive Asian
Seeking attractive, handsome, sexy, sincere, honest, humorous GWM, 35-40. Me: 5'6", 140#, 40 yrs. I'm sexy. ☎ 7617

Not Just a Ride it's an Adventure
Topish guy wanted by bareback bottom. Me: 30, 160#, br/br, HIV+, gym toned. You: well built, 30-45, HIV+, well hung, stable & real. Serious only pls. ☎ 7618.

HIV+ Seeking Companionship
Healthy GWM, 47, 5'10", 190#, blue eyes, silver hair, goatee, kinda shy, romantic, easy going. ISO friend/lover. You: responsible, out going personality, 35-50, similar height & weight or taller. ☎ 7619.

Indian Gay Friend Wanted
36yo Chinese GM seeks men of East Indian origin for friendship. Knowledge of Carnatic music a plus. ☎ 7620.

ISO Aquarius
This Libra has been needing to find you, my friend. I'm 5'7", 150, 44, attractive, clean cut, in shape, interests. Others say you're attractive; you have a sense of humor; you're a nice guy. ☎ 7621.

GWM ISO GM 4 Cal FB/BB. More I'm a regular guy next door type with good sense of humor. I'm 34, considerate, romantic, chubby bear type. You are under 40, 5'7" plus, slim or medium, easy-going. ☎ 7622.

Latin Bottom Seeks Daddy
GLM, 30 yrs, 5'10", 175#, dark eyes & hair, masc with good body ISO top Daddy type, 30-45. Should be very masc and well built & good looking. Hairy chest a plus. Pref in East Bay. ☎ 7623.

Romantic Asian Male
Sought by vintage Italian male for friendship, romantic encounters, kissing, cuddling, caressing, leading to that ultimate moment of truth. Someone who enjoys body contact. ☎ 7624.

Skgy Cute Asian Guy 25-45 LTR
GWM, 40, handsome, masculine, HIV+/healthy, brown/brown, 5'10", 165#, sks AM, dating, friendship. I'm adventurous, spontaneous, mature, fun. Be smart and fun. SF or East Bay only. ☎ 7625.

Waint Creek-34 GWM Frmr Brthr
ISO real man who puts friendship before sex. If you are a GWM, 37-47, and together, let's talk. HIV+ a plus. ☎ 7627.

All Around Nice Guy
GWM, cute, clean cut, 6', 187#, drk br/bl, HIV+, 30. Father ISO down to earth, no attitude, great sense of humor, fun, affectionate guy. LTR/monogamous. Not into scene. ☎ 7628

Black Man 41, HIV-, 6'1", 170#
Beard, short dreads sks friends. I'm a music teacher, musician, masseur and gardener. I'm vegetarian into simple living & spiritual practices. I live in the foothills of Mendocino county. I visit the Bay area occasionally. Not looking for sex buddy. ND/NS/NA. ☎ 7629.

Cutie ISO Pie
Professional GM, 27, 165#, 5'10", French/Italian, HIV+, healthy, witty, outgoing, seeks honest, handsome lover, 25 to 40, frn, romance & love—laughing days, warm cuddling movie nights, outdoors, adventures, sleeping in. ☎ 7520.

Baby Boomer Seeks Gen X'er
Attractive, athletic professional, 50, HIV-, GWM seeks smooth, lean and/or well-muscled, non-smoking, HIV-, generation X student for mentoring relationship. The right young man will enjoy boating/water-skiing, weekends in the Delta. ☎ 7521.

Mulatto Guy
Sexy, intelligent, educated, good-looking, creative, looking for just the right guy for fun and good times. ☎ 7630.

Love to Last a Lifetime
In search of a best friend, a lover, a partner for life. No words, no games, no want-to-be's, just being you, just being me, pure love. ☎ 7631.

Six Years Single-I Need Sex!
GWM, 40, 5'6", 130#, bl/bl, great sense of humor seeks top man, brave, open minded, hung, loving. I suck & need fuckin'! ☎ 7632.

Good-looking Black Ex-Marine
Healthy, cuddly, affectionate & physically sensational. Seeks mature man 60+. Your race & size is secondary. ☎ 7720.

Tennis Anyone? Asians To Date
32yo GWM, 5'7", trim 138#, clean cut, all-American ISO tennis partners—any race or age. Asian under 38 yo, under 5'10", smooth & slender, we can talk about more. ☎ 7709.

Buffed GBM 4 GWM Hunk
Muscular, masculine, attractive and intelligent, professional, intensely spirited GB "MAN" seeks sexy, high-quality, mainstream, socially confident, mature, witty, muscular GW "MAN" for fun, laughs, friendship...maybe more!! ☎ 7710

Attractive Latin 26
I'm 5'7", 170, muscular, stocky build. I like movies, traveling, and dining, but not into bar scene. Prefer to meet Latinos or whites under 35. N.S. ☎ 7711.

Where Are You?
Very cute Latino, 30, 5'11", 175, good sense of humor, athletic, seeking WM, 30-45, no smoking, HIV-, for LTR. ☎ 7712.

Seeking Mature Asian Man
Husky GWM, 46, 6'3", 230#, bl/bl, hairy, looking for 35-50 yr old Asian who enjoys quiet times at home, movies, dinner, pets & possible relationship. Please be solid to stocky build. ☎ 7713.

Dominant Italian
In-shape, 52, 5'8", 145#, long-time bodybuilder but don't acquire bulk. ISO very muscular or naturally well-built younger M to control, spank, massage, bind and bond with. ☎ 7714.

Submissive Bottom Boy Wanted
Hot aggressive man: 58, 5'8", 135 lbs., good build wants you for intimate pleasure. If you're in good shape & need a man standing over you, then call. ☎ 7715.

Hot Property Available
GWM, 6', 170#, 40 yo, prof. adventurous & a nice guy in E.B. wide variety of interests incl. outdoors, travel, music, & more. ISO intelligent, humorous, in-shape, complementary guy for more than sex. ☎ 7716.

Hot Submissive Btm 4 LTR Wntd
GWM, 42, br/br, must, handsome, well built, great life, exec. career, seeks-28-40 yo, slim, in shape, in touch with emotions and intellect. I am a great catch you be also. Sexy + + + +. ☎ 7717.

Take a Chance on Me?
GAM, 28, 5'7", 145 lbs., attractive, honest, sincere, likable, easy going, likes movies, dancing, outdoors. Looking for 25-34 yo man with similar qualities for friendship/poss. relationship. ☎ 7718.

Tall Attractive Leather Bottom
Strong work ethic, healthy, nurturing, family oriented, craftsman, seeks guidance and life with slim, strong, stable, passionate leatherman. Want to contribute, grow, comfort, respect, love, trust. Will be at Folsom. ☎ 7719.

Seeking Loving LTR 35+
Attractive GWM, 59, with good heart seeks loving LTR with slim, small body, GM 35+ who likes to cook, I enjoy hugging, kissing, cuddling, and JO. ☎ 7721.

Seeking Healthy HIV+ Guy!
You: 35 or so, thin to lean build, outgoing and active. Me: blk, 5'10", 165#, lean build, in 1 on 1 interaction. ☎ 7722.

Thinner Seeks Thinner
College teacher, 33, 190, HIV-, goatee seeks sensitive, intellectually hungry guy, 20-40, HIV-, slim, muscular build, non-artsy, non-spiritual for passionate LTR. ☎ 7723.

Like Uncut?
Goodlooking straight type, GWM 50, 5'10", 190#, not into gay scene. Seeks similar, goodlooking, masculine, honest man. Great times are ahead. S 7766.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Wanted: Big Firm Butt
Versatile, 5'11", well built, hung big. Needs Cau men, well built w/a big hairy butt to ear and fuck. ☎ 7523.

Sit Back
GWM, 42, HIV+, who loves to take care of well hung men. Smooth and hung only. Slim and attractive. Very oral. ☎ 7524.

Looking for
Uncut cock attach' to 30-50 yr old HIV- man into slim, toned type for sucking/fucking pleasure. Hairy legs A+. ☎ 7525.

Totally Hot GWM From LA Seeks
Buff GAM for fun and adventure. I'm 5'8", 160#, lean and built. I travel to SF often and want to meet you if you're an exceptional GAM, HIV-, NS. ☎ 7526.

Group Fantasy
Well-built, sexy GAM, 29, 5'9", gym-body, looking for gym-toned guys into group scenes. ☎ 7638.

Gym Bottom into Average Joe? WM, 40's, HIV-, average build, dominant verbal imaginative seeks very muscular bodybuilder exhibitionist bottom HIV- into taking orders, showing off, giving head, taking dildos and more at your place. ☎ 7527.

Raunch-Scat Fantasies...

The sight & sound of a man taking a dump makes my cock stiff. Let this 35 yr WM watch as you drop your pants & fill up the bowl. ☎ 7528.

Discreet Double Dick Delight!

GWM, HIV-, in LTR where sex play has diminished seeks similar or single for afternoon wkday play. JO, 69, kissing. Would like a regular weekly buddy. Me: 50, trim, not quite 6', 170#, cock ringed 7 1/2", thick, big balls, shaved. ☎ 7529..

Full Figure Bear

GLM, 36, 6'2", 240#, very hairy body, mustache, dark features, HIV-, mostly bottom seeks Casual in men, 25-45, for safe good times. ☎ 7530.

Cheese or Without Cheese

Uncut 7", 32, Spanish cheese under my foreskin. After the cheese you can have meat and hot cum in you face. You: 18-40, HIV, deep throat. ☎ 7531.

Asian Boy Toy

Very cute and affectionate 21yo Asian X-bu go dancer with a great full bubble butt wants a Daddy to pamper me. HIV- and discreet only. ☎ 7532.

Pump My Pussy & Unload

Hot & horny Italian stud needs many men to fuck my man pussy & unload. 44, 6', 190, mst, goatee, nice guy, great sex in the Castro. ☎ 7533.

Do Your Weenie a Big Favor

And put it in my toothless mouth (all the way in). Clean, healthy, GWM, masculine guy seeks same, your weenie and me will say thanks. ☎ 7534.

Big Dick Wants to Play!!!

Hot bottoms are you ready to be pumped by 8 uncut 1/2" WM, 40's, HIV-, in shape, goatee, hairy chest, blond, is ready for you! ☎ 7535.

Hot Top Sex Buddy Wanted

Handsome PGWM in LTR, muscular, lean, 5'7", 140#, HIV-, passionate, energetic versatile bottom ISO discreet rendezvous with chemistry. You are in shape, HIV-, 30's-40's, discreet and hungry. ☎ 7536.

Married Guy Wants to Suck Cock

MWM, 45, tall, slim, runner, attractive, prof, sane, clean and most ready to stroke, lick, suck, hung men. Let me play with it while you cum slowly. ☎ 7537.

Personal Fuck Buddy

Let 50's, 5'8", med bid, S/P with great butt be your source of personal pleasure. You are taller, 35-55, handsome & well endowed, you like your tool sucked too. ☎ 7538.

Bondage and Domination

For boy 28-40, with hard body, developed chest, durable balls and compliant attitude. Be restrained, controlled, worked on by strong, aggressive, imaginative master 6', 180, mid 40's, with experience and equipment. ☎ 7539.

Asian Top Samurai/Knight

Seek new conquests and consort. He has beautiful chiseled muscular body, handsome face, brown smooth skin, masculine athletic grace—like to take charge of your body and mind, take you on a mythical journey. ☎ 7522.

Lanky Smooth Bottom Boy?

Bearish guy wants to play with you. He: 45, 5'10", 185, stocky, hairy, c/n shaven. You: under 40, not toned. S/P/spank/toy/shave—any or all. Sub OK. ☎ 7633.

Kick Back!

GWM, 5'10", 160, br/br, c/n shaven, fun. Luv to play, suck cock and balls. Sk mas trim, GW/GA/GH, 18-40. Couples OK. Enjoy! ☎ 7634.

Black Meat Needed to Fill Ass

Horny whit Italian stud bottom needs hard cock to fill up my ass, repeatedly. 44, husky, handsome & in search of black meat. Call for more details. ☎ 7635.

2 Dicks-Yours & Mine!

Let's play with them. Use our hands, tongues & mouths to arouse & stimulate. JO, licking, kissing, Daytime, weekdays M-F. HIV-, 6', 40's, clean, discreet. not a God nor a troll—a regular guy. No ego. ☎ 7636.

Older Deepthroat Cockcck Wntd

By older mature GBM, HIV-, hung, clean, uncut, med build, intelligent. Also enjoy massage. Looks unimportant. Be expert C.S. and sincere. Leave #. ☎ 7637.

Got Hot Hole

GWM, 6', 180#, HIV-, NS/ND. Like to get fuck & suck and watch movies. 6" cock. Age & race no factor. ☎ 7639.

Handsome Italian with Big Cock

Seeks all types with gym toned bodies who crave fucking & sucking shaved & trimmed asses a plus. Top to bottom. I'm a pig. ☎ 7640.

Need an On-Going Fuck Buddy

No strings. Just come over & fuck me—unload 7 leave & come back when you want it again. Italian, mst, goatee, hot ass, & hungry all the time. ☎ 7641.

Do You Want It Big? How's 8"?

Thick inches. I want to plow you or work your throat. This handsome, in shape, hairy chested top is looking for hot service from willing bottoms to 45. ☎ 7642.

Whacking Off in the South Bay

JO buddy needed. If you like to JO, JO others or be JO, answer this ad for hot, clean, safe sessions. ☎ 7643.

69 Artist Needed

44yo GWM into porno, smoking, drinking and other things, seeks lengthy mutual cocksucking sessions. ☎ 7644.

Wanted: Fuck Buddy

Hot GWM, 40, 6', 190#, and HIV+ seeks a regular fuck buddy. Must like kissing, sucking, and getting fucked. Must be 20-35. All nationalities welcome. ☎ 7645.

Looking 4 Asian Top

GWM, 5'7", 135#, 30's, HIV-, nice ly-built and handsome seeking hot safe sex, no strings attached. You should be Asian, fit, masculine, and horny, like to fuck or get sucked. ☎ 7646.

Hot Bottom Seeks Tops/Gangbang

Me: white, 21, gd-kg, clean-shaven, wants to get tied down and be hour hole. You: white, 20-30, attractive, top, in shape, cut, well-endowed, masculine, athletic, likes to fuck. ☎ 7647.

Sensuous Expert Oral Service

By GWM, attract, clean-cut, discreet bottom. 5'9", 158#, hairy chest, 30W, deep throat, hot mouth & butt at your service. You: masc, gd prop body, ht/wt, 28-50, real horny. ☎ 7648.

Just Sex & Friendship in East Bay

White, 21, 150#, hairy chest, 30W, deep throat, hot mouth & butt at your service. You: masc, gd prop body, ht/wt, 28-50, real horny. ☎ 7648.

East Bay Dad Looking for Boy

Into bondage/submission/training. 18-35, some experience but eagerness to learn/please. Me: 40's, in shape, experienced, sadistic but sane, limits respected expanded over time. ☎ 7650.

Hung Guys Wanted!

I'm looking for guys who are hung 9 inches and over for fun and good times. ☎ 7651.

Dick Sucking and Cock Worship

Good-looking cocksucker ISO huge fat dicks to eat. I like cock rings, dirty talk, Daddy bear types, but size is most important so all are welcome. Huge hung dick feeders call. ☎ 7652.

Ass Massage Spanking

I want to look at, touch, squeeze, massage, tickle, probe, spank & screw your butt. Me: attract, GWM, oral top, 46, 6'5", 250#, football player's build. You: attract, boy (white, Latino, Asian) male, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate body hair, nice buns. ☎ 7653.

Discreet Affair Italian Style

GWM, 44, 6', 200#, br (bald), br, gt, sexy, hairy, in shape, LTR, sks GWM, 35-50, hairy, fit, NS for hot safe sex. SF pre, ver/btm A+. ☎ 7654.

Bottoms Wanted

GWM, 42, 5'8", 150#, HIV-, seeking bottoms, 18-45, HIV- for safe and discreet fun. ☎ 7655.

GLM Bottom ISO GWM Top

For discreet encounters late afternoon early evenings, my place. Me: HIV-, 30 yo, 6', slim, clean shaven in LTR. You: HIV-, 40-55 yo, into sucking/licking, facial hair preferred but not necessary. ☎ 7732.

Why I Give You Great Head?

Enlightened self-interest—the better the blow job the bigger your load for me to savor. Big loads beat big dicks! Two mouthfuls maybe? ☎ 7724.

Big Dick Bttom Boys Turn Me On

UB: good looking GWM/GLM, 25-35 yo, hot and ready to spread 'em. Me: good-looking top, GWM, 40 yo. I want to feed you from both ends. Open up and do it! ☎ 7725

This Top's for You

Jim, a serious black top; 39, 170 lbs, 6', 9" —. Wants a hot, wet & "natural" hole to fuck. You: sexy GBM or Latino. Lean, trim, masc and ready—then-let's do it. ☎ 7726.

Play with My Great Ass

Then spread my legs and pound your big manneet into my hot hole. Muscular, masculine, mature man seeks hung top/bottom, 25-40, to fill my hungry butt with love juice. ☎ 7727.

Asian Man Wanted

GWM, 34, tall, good-looking, in-shape healthy, seeks healthy Asian top for sex and maybe more. The real thing. ☎ 7728.

Horny/Hairy, Hungry, Oral Expert

WM 37 sks dominant coach top WM, 35-50 who wants his locker room sex a reality. Nasty talk, porno paring on this cock all night, bear. Str, bi welcome. Discreet head for coach. ☎ 7729.

Hot Action

Asshole take w/rm seat. Me: Hisp, hot, very attr., 40, 5'11", 165#. You: hot, in shape, young to 40, w/puckering hole & lips. ☎ 7730.

I Want to Please You

With my hot mouth and tongue. Me: handsome, GWM, 33, 6', 175#, br/gm. You: 20-30, GWM, ht/wt prop, avg, good looks, verbally dominant. Thing, nerdy looking a plus. ☎ 7731.

Just Shut Up and Ride!

32, WM, 5'10", 200 lb, blond hair, blue eyes, muscle hung (48" ch, 31" w, 18" arms) wants good-looking man masculine men to pump me full of squirt—anytime. ☎ 7733

Let's 69 All Night

44yo, GWM pig, small cut cock. Likes to go fast, cum slow—into porno. UB same—good attitude mandatory. ☎ 7734.

Exciting, Endowed East Bay

Black top man, 45, needs a chunky, experienced, masculine mature bottom man over 40 for a fast, hot, intense ride on my joystick. Sincere only. ☎ 7735.

Jack Off - Cock Play - Discreet

Pull the pud. Stroke, whack the rod. Call it what you want. Let's do it! Watch each other. Do each other until we shoot! Weekdays, GWM, 40's, HIV-, clean cut, ht/wt prop. ☎ 7736

Hung Black Muscle Top Wanted

By 35 yo, 6'10", 155, hot, handsome, br/bl, smooth, muscular, tight, well defined swimmer with hard white butt & hot hole. You: big, hard, hung; age, looks unimp. ☎ 7737.

Black Men 8 In or More

GWM, 5'8", 145#, goatee, stache, seeks well endowed black men for regular servicing. I get into anything. ☎ 7738.

Big Dick Jack Off

Manly 5'10", muscular 180#, meaty 7", beard, bald like gripping boners, kissing extremely masculine, hairy chested guys/big dicks (uncut +). Rugged, affectionate guys, rubbing pecs, licking beads, delaying macho loads. ☎ 7739

You Want Ass...

That's hot, wet & takes long, deep "natural" fucks. 1 on 1 or more. Sexy, GBM, lean, trim, masc & ready. You: fit/wt prop, masc, serious & ready to fuck now. ☎ 7740.

Get Loose and Be Wild

Feel like playing like an animal? Very hairy WM, HIV-49, 5'10", 170#, likes sweaty wrestling, struggle for top, any scene you want. East Bay preferred but all answered. ☎ 7741.

Big Btm Boy ISO Domnt Tops

GWM, 41, 5'10", 245#, brown/hazel, goatee, big tits & ass ISO all aggressive men to fill my holes. Use me for your pleasure, str. Age, race, looks, size unimportant. ☎ 7742.

Only Sucking You Off Will Do

Because that's the one way you unload spurt after spurt where it can be savored and swallowed in a climax befitting my world class blow job. Step to the phone? ☎ 7743.

Italian Guys!

I'm the guy who knows what the Italian male really wants. ☎ 7744.

Chest, Legs, & Skin

Handsome Asian, beautiful chest 7 legs, olive skin, seeks same physical type for mutual pleasure. Hairy legs A+, HIV+ preferred. ☎ 7745.

I Own a Vintage 1954 Black

Hot rod and I need a new front or rear parking space for it. Both driver (me) and passenger (you) are mature, honest, manly and have staches. Start engines. ☎ 7746.

Discreet Action Wanted

By GWM, 39, in a LTR. 170, 5'11", average fitness/size. Goated, hairy, br/br in versatile oral/anal pleasures. No bareback sex. Available days/occasional nights. Very passionate. Singles or couples. ☎ 7747.

Pump My Ass & Unload

Horny, handsome, hot Italian needs my ass pumped & plunged & fucked often until you unload your balls. S 7748.

FETISHES

Nipples

Hey, nipple freaks! Let's work each other's super-sensitive nipples and enjoy ball-breaking orgasms. Hairy body? Even better! Verbal? Good! It's nipples, men. Serious nipple lovers of all ages welcome. ☎ 7540.

Gym-Toned Asians into Tits

Wanted by two fit nipple lovers for long safe sessions. ☎ 7541.

Throw Away the Rules!

Strong rugged rasser, 5'8", 155#, bearded, hairy, ISO similar into rough no-holds-barred ring bouts to submission. Prefer hairy bare-assed rasslers but Blacks/Asians very welcome. ☎ 7542.

Daytime Asshole Eater!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro. ☎ 7546.

Flex Your Muscles

WM, late 40's, seeks muscular guy of any size into showing off and being admired. Like defined biceps, hot pecs. Asians/Blacks a plus. ☎ 7557.

Asian Master 4 Smooth Bottoms

Very attractive, intelligent, 32yo, Eurasian, nice sexy smooth bod, sexually demanding seeks guys into spankings, BD, SM, other kink. New in town. Asians, novices welcome. ☎ 7558.

Medical Top Sought

By btm, I have OR table, medical restraints, enema gear, cath, NG tubes, sounds, rubber and more. HIV-, NS, 5'9", 178#, clean cut, 40's, very discreet. ☎ 7559.

GM W/Toe Ring Loves Doing It

Barefoot. Lifelong craving for reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing, naked body closeness, JO, fantasies. Dirty soles OK. Uninhibited, E.B., masculine, tan, good looking GWM, 5'9", 140#, HIV- seeks foot buddy and friend. ☎ 7660.

Sit on a Happy Face!

Husky, hairy Daddy bear, mid-40's, wants to eat your fuzzy butt. UB under 40, attractive, in shape, with a hairy hole. Reciprocatation OK. On-going great. Your place only. ☎ 7661.

Fightin' Boys

My 2 boys—punks are a real discipline problem: they're always fighting, nut boxing, choking, pissing & trying to ass-ram each other. Any suggestions? ☎ 7662.

Super Butch Scat Stud!

Seeks same: blond, handlebar stach, 5'9", 140#, HIV-, 6' cut and very raunchy. You: short hair, masc, good looks, into dumping fudge in hot man's mouth. Can be mutual, dig uniforms, leather, jocks, levis, boots. No flakes please. ☎ 7663.

Corporal Punishment Meted Out

To deserving individuals. Training to serve and suffer for the pleasure/entertainment of another. Only those in need of serious training and abuse need apply. Subject seeks to be in good shape, 18-38, no fantasy trips/first timers. ☎ 7664.

Seeking Scat Water Sports

GWM seeks handsome guy, 22-45. Me: hairy chest and back. Cute butt. No fairs or fems. ☎ 7665.

Hot and Hungry

East Bay, 50's, hot mouth and tongue craves white men naked with nice big clean feet. Lick them, suck them, and more. ☎ 7666.

Unbuckle Yr Pants Drop Em & JO

Attr. GWM, 40's, 5'11", 165#, br/br, beard, must., likes dropping my pants/underpants w/men & JO. Jeans/khakis/slacks (w/belts) all OK. White briefs/boxers—suits/uniforms A+. ☎ 7749.

Trainable and Ready

Under trained but willing submissive GWM bottom seeks sane but serious and demanding sadist. I'm slim, in shape, early 50's, HIV-, and you are any race. Experienced, and creative. S 7750.

ISO Raunch Top

Bottom seeks dominant tops for degradation, humiliation, bondage & pain. WS & scat A+. Hairy, cigar smokers a plus. ☎ 7751.

Sneaker Sniffer! Bootlicker!!!!

Toe sucker! Mature, respectful deep throat expert will kneel to worship & service well hung men who know what they want!!! S 7752.

Cock and Balls Need Stretching

Masculine, straight WM, 50's, seeking GGB torture. Shave them, bind them, whack them, wax them, make them ache for release before jerking me off and feeding me my own cum. ☎ 7753.

Scat and WS Buddies Wanted

GWM, 44, great body, looking for hot guys into scat and WS. Let's get dirty and get off. UB under 40, slim, trim and ready to play. ☎ 7754.

Recycle

Older WM. You: clean, healthy, beer drinker, big soft uncult cock. Me: suck crotch, you hose mouth. You: 45-55, WM, HM. No bottoms. ND. ☎ 7755.

Bondage

GWM, masculine, clean shaven, muscular, 5'11", 170, young 44, HIV-, seeks bondage play. Contract abduction scenarios, pleasure torture to mod. SM. Me: basically bottom, possible switch, safe sex only. ☎ 7756.

Rubber Play

Bearded Dad in SF., 60, 5'9", 150#. Loves slippery play in rubber chaps, jock, boots. Seeks masculine, in shape GWM, GBM, 35-50, NS/ND. ☎ 7757.

Perfect Hairy Butt

Looking for Uncle, Daddy or Doctor type bottoms to service 45 yr old scat top. ☎ 7758.

Slave/Dog Property Wanted

You think of yourself as "the best and the brightest" and question, at times, your Master's worthiness to force disciplining and humiliation on you. Be GWM, under 35 and 5'10", slim, well-defined body and short-haired. ☎ 7759.

COUPLES

Let Me Watch

Blond boy, 28, with slim smooth hairless body seeks bi-racial male couples. If your a white boy with a studly black boyfriend, I'd love to watch him give it to you—Call me if your boyfriends seriously hung. ☎ 7543.

Hot Motorcycle Leather Buddies

Positive HIV+, Gd/kg, masculine, versatile, 35-40, well built, well hung into fantasies and most scenes. Talented, fun and respectful. Seek couples or singles to share, explore sensation and mutual pleasure. ☎ 7544.

Tap Team!

Tomboy butch Bif, olive-Jewish, Spanish-speaking, 29, deep, real fine, seeking G/BIM couple (of color preferred) for 3-way play, friendship. Future co-parenting possible. ☎ 7667.

GWM GYM

Seek hot, young Latino or men of color for sex and hot times. Must be versatile and well endowed. ☎ 7668.

Relationship Sought

With GWM couple, who are cute, masculine, versatile tops, well-endowed, cut, under 35. Me: 30, G

Love is blue

by Jim Nawrocki

Getting Over Homer by Mark O'Donnell; Vintage, \$11

American author and critic Gilbert Seldes once wrote, "Comedy is the last refuge of the nonconformist mind." If there's any truth in that, then it's not surprising that many gay and lesbian artists have found a refuge in humor. The homosexual experience is, perhaps, the ultimate example of nonconformity, and the

trials and tribulations of living the gay life have always been a great source of artistic inspiration. For every artistic work offering dark meditations on gay life, love and death, there is the potential (even if not always realized) of its comic counterpart. Even the grim realities of AIDS produced a number of "gallows humor" responses (such as the zine *Diseased Pariah News*). As if to make sure we don't spend too much time pitying ourselves, the occasional jester appears to remind us of the lighter side. Mark O'Donnell's novel *Get-*

ting Over Homer is one of these welcome antidotes to tales of gay angst.

The Homer of the title is the idealized, seemingly perfect but lost love of the book's narrator, Hans Christian "Blue" Monahan. As Blue laments and reexamines his thwarted relationship with Homer, he does so from the perspective of a single gay man approaching middle age. Blue's vehicle of meditation is a kind of extended monologue laden with mordant observations and memorable *bon mots*. In the end, *Get-*

ting Over Homer is a beautiful and funny resignation to the sobering realities of growing older and wiser as a gay man.

Throughout the story, Blue frequently reflects on his first glimmerings of gay awareness. The youngest of 12 children, and the brother of an identical twin, Blue Monahan has had ample opportunity for sexual confusion. In spite of this situation, and even in the face of back-to-back family tragedies, he remains admirably anchored. In the midst of his Cleveland childhood of shared bedrooms, sibling rivalries, and schoolyard traumas, Blue learns early on that he is more interested in the "sideburned delinquents" of *West Side Story* than in the fleshy "pink mountains" glorified in *Playboy* that his friends pass around. But not wanting to rock the family boat by announcing his gayness, Blue plays the role of wholesome son instead. It's not until he moves to New York City to pursue a career in songwriting that he enters the arena of gay dating.

While Blue achieves enviable success as a songwriter, his luck with respect to affairs of the heart is less than satisfying. Blue constantly and understandably compares his lot to that of his twin, who is nicknamed Red and is the star of a popular TV sitcom. As Blue endures the vicissitudes of gay love in New York, Red basks in the fame, fortune, and love he finds in L.A. To anyone reading this review, these blue/red, East/West, hot/cold dichotomies will probably seem like forced symbolism, but O'Donnell makes it all work quite nicely.

He also makes good use of a lot of inventive wordplay, getting good mileage out of the fact that his favorite Greek poet (Blue writes a musical based on *The Odyssey*) and his idealized



Author Mark O'Donnell

boyfriend share the same name. O'Donnell is also a master of the catchy chapter title. All of this cleverness lends his tale an engaging cohesiveness.

Though funny, the book has its share of painful moments. After two failed romances, Blue begins to see himself as a kind of Prufrockian character, his hair thinning, the decades adding up, and young men all the more elusive. At one point, when he confronts a twentysomething ex-lover in the park and demands a reason for the break-up, the ex-lover's equally young friend calls out to Blue, as the two lads rollerblade into the distance, "You're just too old!" Blue manages to absorb such blows, and even appreciate them from an absurdist perspective. The most effective comedy, after all, is usually strengthened by a sense of the poetic. It carries truth and insight, and, at its best, helps us live. For any man who has ever loved, lost, and lamented, *Getting Over Homer* is a great tonic. ▼

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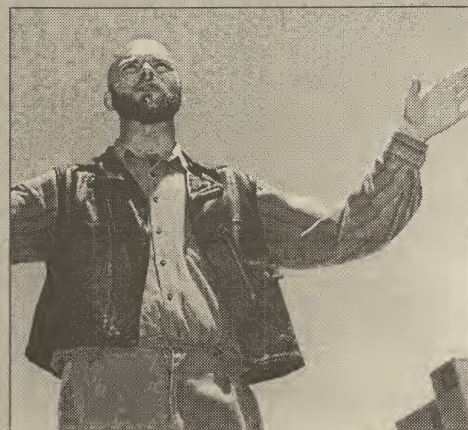
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THEATRE

It's not 'Auntie Mame'



Animal J. Smith, the creative force behind 1995's *Animal's Positive Christmas: A Viral Celebration*, has returned to the fold with *Burn the Quilt*, a new musical running through August 30 at the Grasshopper Palace.

Burn the Quilt is a solo musical theater piece designed to take a hard look at the culture of death and mourning that continues to prevent America's gay community from achieving what Smith calls "real cultural and social progress." Says Smith, "*Burn the Quilt* challenges our assumptions about how we honor our dead and treat our living, brings to light the insidious effects of 'death sentences,' and takes a direct and clear-eyed view of our post-protease future."

Burn the Quilt will be presented Friday, August 29 and Saturday the 30th on the 4th floor of the Grasshopper Palace, 333 Valencia Street (at 14th). Performances are at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10. For information, call 561-1441. ▼

HEALTH RESOURCES

COMMUNITY HEALTH LISTINGS

Send health resource listings to:

Roberto Friedman
Community Health
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

ACT UP/Golden Gate
Self-empowerment for AIDS treatment options. Gen'l mtgs. Tues., 7:30pm; treatment issues every other Thurs., 7:30pm. 592 Castro. 252-9200.

ACT UP/SF
Does not accept drug company donations, committed to direct action. Contact: 1388 Haight, #218, SF 94117. 522-2907.

Acupuncture
The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed., 9-11:30am. American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut. 282-9603.

AIDS Benefits Counselors
Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV+. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Bereavement Group
For those who have lost their partner to AIDS. Thursdays, 6-7:30pm. Registration and info: 750-6800 x21680.

AIDS Community Research Consortium
Conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia CARE Unit
At St. Mary's Medical Center seeks volunteers to visit patients with HIV-related cognitive impairments. Call Stephan Ouellette, MSW, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund
Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project
Support groups for caregivers, friends & lovers of those with HIV/AIDS; women only, and mixed groups; free. Info: Mike, 502-6101.

AIDS/HIV Nightline
Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel
Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Memorial Grove
Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS Project of the East Bay
HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 651 20th St., Oakland. (510) 834-8181.

AIDS Support Group
2+ years since diagnosis. No charge, fees paid by Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Resource Group. Thursdays, 1pm. Call Gail Winston for intake: 552-7517.

AIDS Treatment Education Network
Provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS: holistic healing and survival strategies. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project
Offers family counseling, support groups and events for families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered members. 436-9000.

ARIS
AIDS resources, information and services of Santa Clara county, drop-in support group meetings. 408-293-ARIS.

Asians & Pacific Islanders with HIV
Weekly support group, activities, retreats, treatment info. API Wellness Center, 292-3400 x336.

Baker Places
Provides housing for people with AIDS who have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. For info or intake call 284-1740.

BAPHR
Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights offers support services to med. students, physicians. 558-9353.

Bay Positives
Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Baylands Family Circle
Non-profit group of families headed by gay, lesbian and bisexual partners, meets monthly for social. Call Tom, 858-2468.

Bereavement Groups
For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Boy + Boy
Actions which promote safe sex among young gay and bi men. Tues., 7pm at Stop AIDS Project, 201 Sanchez. 431-2ACT x80Y.

Buddhist AIDS Project
Provides info on Buddhist resources, events, and HIV alternative health services. Call 522-7473.

Cannabis Club
Allowed by court order to cultivate marijuana for medicine. Needed: old grow lights, fans, etc. 1444 Market. 621-3986.

Catholic Charities
Residential and direct HIV services include Guerrero House, Peter Claver Community, more. 814 Mission. 281-1200.

Center for Special Problems
Groups for people with HIV: drop-in for women, women's therapy group, co-ed drop-in and psycho educational group. 1700 Jackson. Call for info: 292-1500.

CHANGES Project
(A Coping Skills Program), UCSF research project: ways to deal with stress of HIV epidemic. HIV+ gay men call: 597-9169.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV
Support group forming for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1348.

Clinica Esperanza
The HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 431-3212.

Coming out support group for women
Meets Weds., 7:30-9pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market. All women questioning their sexuality welcome. Info: Lynne, 626-7000.

Coming out support group for men
Meets Weds., 6-7:30pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market St. Men of all ages welcome. Facilitated by Kirk Hinman, Ph.D. Info: 626-7000.

Community United Against Violence
Begins training Volunteer Counselors on their 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500.

Connections
Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color, free. Call 356-8114.

Continuum HIV Day Services
An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Crystal Meth Anonymous
Meetings every Wed., 8pm at 18th St. Services Mtg. Place (15th & Market); Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Davies Med. Center
Free classes for HIV+ people in needlepoint (Tues., Wed.), exercise (Tues., Thurs.), stress reduction (Mon.). Castro at Duboce, info: 565-6369.

Deaf AIDS Center
At UCSF Center on Deafness offers services to those with HIV experiencing hearing loss or deafness. Counseling, resources, practical support. Interpreting services and assisting devices on loan. 476-7600 (TTY) or 476-4980 (voice).

Diabetics
Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type I and Type II diabetics in SF and the Bay Area. Info: (510) 865-2933.

Dolores Street Comm. Services
Seeks volunteers to help homeless in shelters. Contact David Rodriguez, 282-6209.

Drug Detox Program
Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, 529 Clayton. Call Hector, 565-1909.

Eden I & R
Information & referral for AIDS/affordable housing, HIV service providers in Alameda Co. (510) 537-2600.

Ellipse-Peninsula AIDS Services
Support groups, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs in San Mateo Co. 572-9702.

Eureka Acupuncture & Yoga Center
Offers yoga, massage, low cost acupuncture. 301 Eureka. 648-2215.

FABRIC
A support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

Filipino Task Force on AIDS
Provides prevention, education and direct care services to Filipinos and others affected by HIV/AIDS. 1540 Market, Suite 325. Info: 703-9880.

Galemas
Service organization supporting gay and lesbian employees of Pacific Bell. Membership info: call 747-9880.

Gay Dads
Gather to talk about your kids, lovers, ex's, etc. Joel Wechsler, MFCC. Alternative Family Project. 436-9000.

Gay/Lesbian Christian Scientists
Sharing support, insight, metaphysical science. Meets 2nd Monday of month. Info: Craig, 281-0636.

Gay/Lesbian Legal Referral Service
Seeks gay-sensitive law students as volunteer law clerks, one 3-hr. shift/week at GLRS office, Oakland. Info: 621-3900.

Gay and Lesbian Tennis Federation
Offers activities for players of all abilities, membership mtgs. monthly. Info: Donna at 282-2453 or e-mail dmckins@aol.

Gay Men's STD/VD Clinic
Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun. 5-7pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7pm. 2339 Durant Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Gay Young Spirit
A new spiritual/social group for gay men in their 20s & 30s, meets alternate Tues., 7:15pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

G40+ Club
A social group for gay/bi men 40 and over, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

Glide-Goodlett HIV/AIDS Project
Free, confidential HIV antibody testing, Wed. 12-4, 5-8pm. Case management, support groups, AIDS prevention and education. 330 Ellis, Suite 518. 567-2273.

Golden Gate Flyers

Gay, lesbian and bisexual, private and professional pilots. Call for upcoming events: 995-4938.

Healing Alternatives Foundation
Maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Resource Library. Also Buyer's Club for health products, open Tues.-Sat. 1748 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Health Support Services
For PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-9pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis "B" Testing
And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men, free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

HIV Advocacy Network
Grassroots organizing project of SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax tree action alerts, government lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. 487-3034.

HIVCare
Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments, free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Drop-In Groups
Co-ed for people with HIV, Wed., 8pm. Women with HIV, Tues., 10am. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Negative Gay Men's Support Group
In the South Bay, meets second and fourth Wed. of each month, 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. Info: Pat Duffy, 408-293-2747.

HIV Negative Support Group
For gay and bisexual men offered by AIDS Health Project; free drop-in, time-limited and ongoing support groups. Info: 476-3902.

HIV Nutrition Discussion/Support Group
Ongoing monthly meetings at city clinics, call for info: CARE Program Nutritionists, 554-9121.

HIV Positive Drop-In Group
Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4454.

HIV Positive Youth Group
18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

HIV Testing
Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Immune Enhancement Project
Teaches persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Iris Center
Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Istituto Laboral de la Raza
Helps low income and unemployed workers with labor issues, union organizing, family support. 431-7522.

Laguna Honda Hospital AIDS Unit
Provides compassionate care to PWAs who are SF residents in need of 24-hour nursing care. Call 664-1580.

Lesbian/Gay Christian Scientists
Meets 2nd Monday of each month for healing, insight and support. Info: 281-0636, or (800) 280-6653.

Linea de Ambiente
Information, referral and emotional support for gay, lesbian and bi Latinos regarding immigration, HIV, social services, a project of Gente Latina de Ambiente (GELAAM). 243-9534.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center
Quality, affordable, non-judgmental medical care to women by women, special outreach to lesbian and bisexual women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC's After School
Drop-in for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, 18 and under. Daily, 3-6pm, M-F. 123 Collingwood. 703-6150.

Marin Co. STD/HIV Clinics
STD testing, treatment; HIV anonymous testing, treatment. Call 499-7804.

Martin De Porres House of Hospitality
Needs volunteers to work in soup kitchen, breakfast and lunch. 225 Potrero. 552-0240.

Meditation Sessions
For caregivers, people with HIV, significant others, free. Tues., Thurs., Fri. at 10:15am. Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. 863-2507.

Molested Boys:
"Wounded Men, Recovery from Sexual Abuse" free audiotape. Call 552-4270.

MWM
A rap group for gay/bi Asian Pacific Islander men and their partners. Wed. nights, 6:30pm. Asian AIDS Project, 785 Market, Suite 420. 227-0946.

New Leaf
Provides substance abuse, mental health, HIV and senior services for les, gay, bi, and trans community. Info/intake: 626-7000.

Outline
Free HIV info and support using Windows or Macintosh graphic interface. Info: 554-0555 or info@out.org

Pacific Center
Counseling services for queer youth & adults, sliding scale. 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. (510) 548-8283.

Pacific Center Walnut Creek
Support groups for queer and questioning people, counseling referrals and information. (510) 939-7711.

Paradigm
Models for Enhancing Life Near Death, serves the terminally ill, free 10-week support group in SF. Call for info: 522-9192.

Planetree Health Resource Center
Up-to-date medical info to assist in making informed health choices. Extensive consumer health library, current medical lit clippings & health bookstore. Also support groups, health information service by mail. 2040 Webster St. 923-3680.

The Positive Center
Free weekly workshops in acupuncture, nutrition, more for Marin CO. residents w/HIV. 535 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo. 456-8065.

Positive Gay Humanists
Internat'l organization to end discrimination & violence, meets Tues. at 7:30pm. Info: 285-0606.

Positive Living for Us
Free weekend seminar for recently-tested HIV+. Info: Alfredo, 356-8129.

Positive Resource
Provides work referrals to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening or attend an employment opportunity orientation mtg call 928-1448.

Project HOPE
Offers HIV prevention peer counseling to gay, bisexual and transgender men of color. Call 356-8114.

Project Inform
HIV/AIDS Treatment info & advocacy group. Introductory town mtgs. First Wed. of month, 6:30pm, 1965 Market, Suite 220. Hotline: 558-9051; 1-800-822-7422.

Project Open Hand
Provides free prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

Protease Inhibitor Support Group
Forming to explore complex issues of new HIV treatment protocols. No fee, weekly, ongoing, pre-registration required. Hospice by the Bay. Info: Mike, 626-5900.

Proyecto ContralSIDA Por Vida
Free introductory meditation class Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. 2240 Geary Blvd. 346-7906.

Psychic Horizons
Free introductory meditation class Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. 2240 Geary Blvd. 346-7906.

PWAs Undergoing Infusion
Support group for men, free. Tues. afternoons. Call Carol or Jim at 552-2022.

Q Action
Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 431-2ACT.

Qi Gong for Health
\$1 per class. Mon., Wed., 5:30pm. 50 Oak St., 3rd fl. 255-0265.

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center
Acupuncture, Chinese herbal therapies, massage for those with HIV, Yoga and Chi Gong classes. Call for schedule. 1748 Market. 861-4964.

Question HIV
Support group, share stories, every Mon., 7pm. Call for location and info. 252-1381.

Radical Women
Business mtg, 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

Rafiki Services Project
Enhancing quality of life for African American people living with AIDS in SF. 346-5860.

re plen ish
Offers individual and group retreats for professional caregivers in the HIV community. Info: Kay, 864-5140 or write PO Box 410592, SF 94141.

Richard M. Cohen Residence
SF's first assisted-living residence for people disabled by AIDS; needs volunteers (call 558-0503) and household donations (call Wayne April, 282-6209).

Richmond Area Multi-Services in SF
Offers low fee counseling psychotherapy services to sexual minorities, people with HIV/AIDS. Support therapy groups for family loved ones of PWAs in English, Russian, Cantonese, Vietnamese. 668-5955.

Richmond Senior Central
Seeks volunteers in computer, p.r., marketing, senior safety, other fields. Call 752-2815.

Sadhana Brothers
Gay men's Hindu/Yogic fellowship, meets monthly for chanting, meditation, informal discussion. Call Ed, 647-4388.

San Mateo County AIDS Program
Provides prevention, health care, services and advocacy. Volunteer Resources Coordinator: 573-2488. Information: 573-2588.

SCA
Sexual Compulsive Anonymous meets Fri. at 6:30pm, 3400 16th St. 1-800-977-HEAL.

Senior Central
Provides info, referral and assistance to gay and lesbian seniors, free and confidential services. 360 4th St. 777-3233.

Shanti Project's Latino Program
Specifically serves Latino men, women, adolescents and children infected with and affected by HIV. Provides help with emotional peer counseling and practical support. For more information, call 864-CARE.

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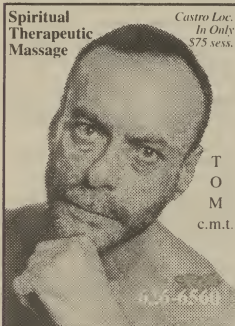
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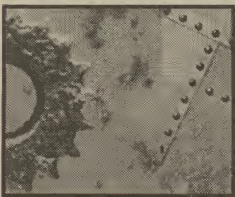
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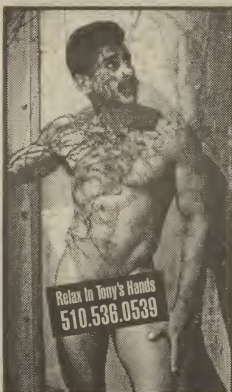
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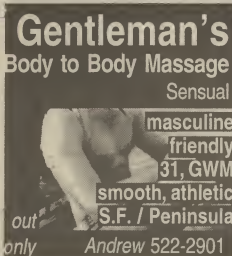


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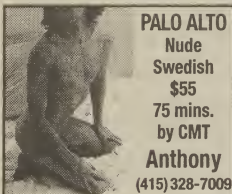
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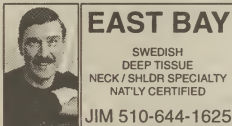


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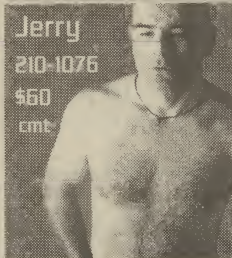
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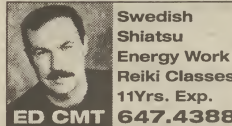
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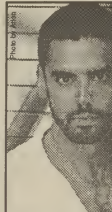
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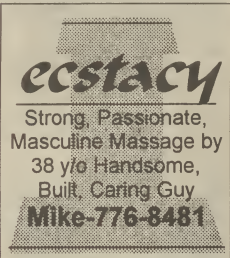


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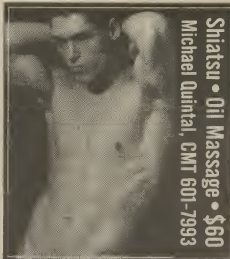
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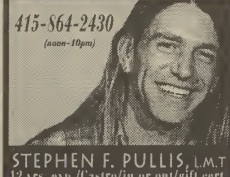


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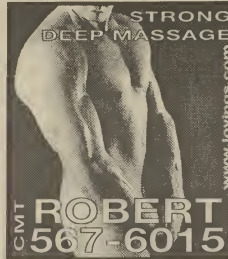
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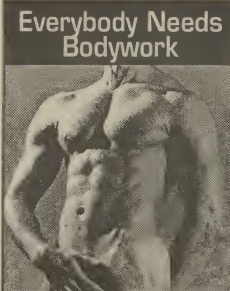
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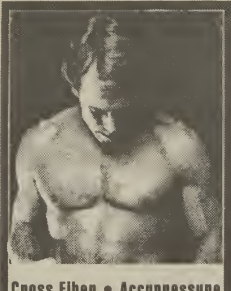


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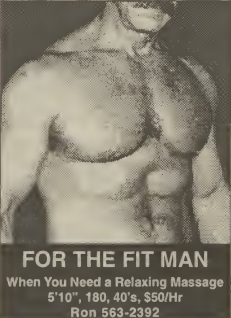
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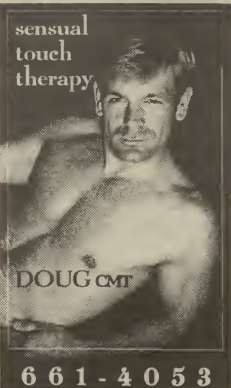
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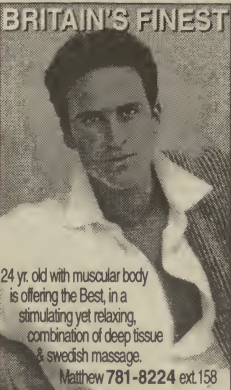
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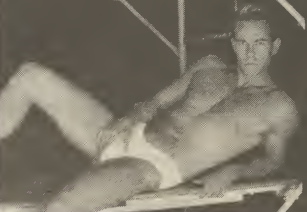
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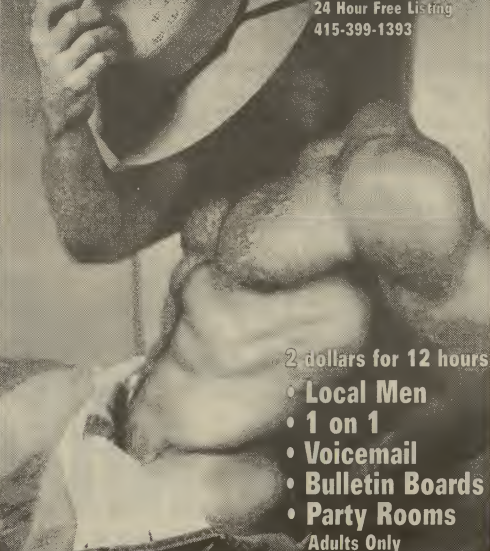
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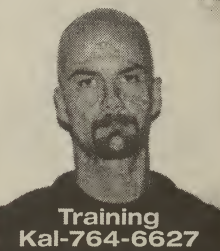
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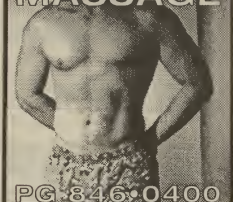
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versatile, hot-chested man's man.
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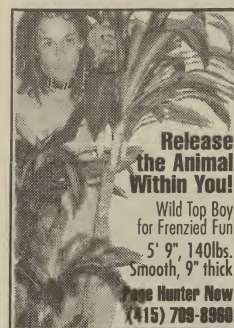
10 X 6 CUT

6ft German-Italian, 185 lbs, br hair, br
eyes, tanned swimmer's build. Daniel
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Wild Top Boy
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5' 9", 140lbs.
Smooth, 9" thick
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6'4", 260 lbs.
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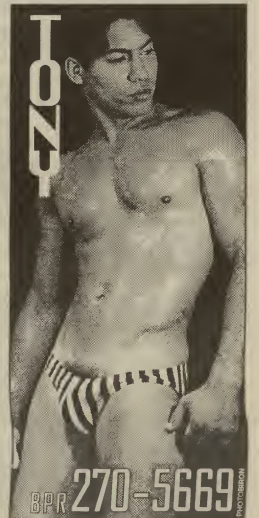
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The Face of an Angel
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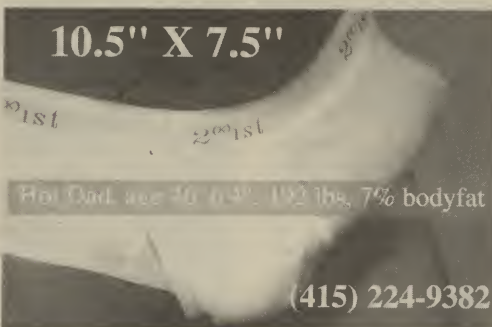
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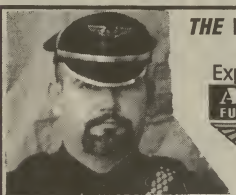
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GFT, SMOOTH SWIMMER'S
BUILD, 8" UNCUT

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In/Out Joey 752-3844 cell

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Give it up to Nikos 885-1471 Nob Hill

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6'3" 215# FIREMAN

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pointments. 35+ only/out/travel. 679-3168

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9"

24 hrs, 24 hrs, 24 hrs

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washboard stomach 27" waist
versatile Call anytime 837-8900
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Dark
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well hung, 17" A, 48" C, 32" W, very
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Attractive, well-endowed player.

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E 34

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24, 6'1", 145, 29" w, 8"
Hard natural build, friendly
Shaved in all the right places.

Educated, discreet, model face/body

Page Mitch: 202-1130

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175 lbs., 6 ft, Cute, Top, In/Out

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Dominant top, 38 yo, 6'1", 200#, 7"
uncut, flat top, mustache, blue eyes, looks
military. Into bondage, S/M, W/S, CBT,
F/F, fantasy, most scenes. Beginner??

Have playspace, equipment and toys Scott
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Enjoy your fantasy of owning a Slave
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230 LB, 6 FT, 50 CH, 19 ARMS

LICK MY BOOTS

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AGGRESSIVE STUD

New to city. 5'9", 160 pounds, 24
years old, black hair, brown eyes,
very sexy. Call Patrick for your plea-
sure. Pager (415) 207-1923

E 37

HOT HANDSOME LATIN

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years old, black hair, brown eyes,

very sexy. Call Patrick for your plea-
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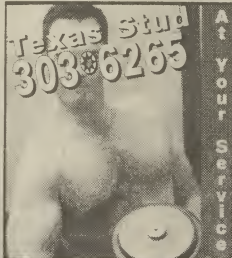
E 37

MODELS/ESCORTS

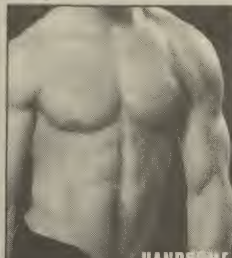
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Passionate
Handsome
Versatile
Friendly
Beautiful
Hazel Eyes
5'11"/175#
Very Well
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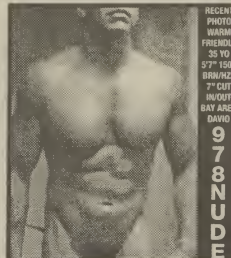
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TEXAS STUD
303-6265
At Your Service
JOE
441.1835

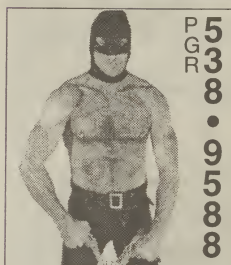


HANDSOME.
MASCULINE.
BUILT.
PERIOD.
\$180.
STEVE.
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RUSTY

9x6
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BEAUTIFUL BLACK B/B BOTTOM

\$120 In \$130 Out
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Dominant Dungeon Master DAGEN

6ft, slim, smooth, sexy stud
Bondage to buttplay top
Explore my well stocked playroom
B/D T/T C/B/T F/F-Most sane scenes OK
Leather, Rubber, Boots, Electricity
Hot Healthy Handsome \$100
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Tall (6'2") Slender Smooth Healthy
CUTE YOUNG BOY 9.5"!!
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21 yr old boy, swimmer's build
Chiseled face, olive complexion, 6ft, Defined chest & legs, 8" thick uncut
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WASP, good looks, ripped body
Expensive. Steve. 615-2409

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Rockhard globes of Butt! Hungry•
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24hr•BD•FF•WS•34•5'7"•135#•7"cut
HOT REDHEAD!!!!
MARCEL 929-1803

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5'8", hot, 7" cut, cute, courteous
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2 CUTE YOUNG GUYS

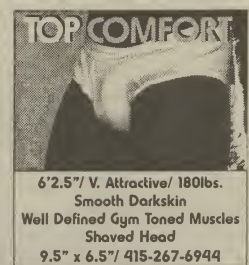
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1 Brn/brn beautiful ass 280-7851

MIKE, 30, 5'10" 200#, Bld/Blu

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military. Into bondage, S/M, W/S, CBT,
F/F, fantasy, most scenes. Beginner-??
Have playspace, equipment and toys Scott
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